



A Monthly Journal of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and Domestic Economy, Adapted To the Wants of the People of the Mississippi Valley.

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The Valley Farmer.

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TERMS.
THE VALLEY FARMER is published on the first of each month, each number containing 48 large octavo pages (including 8 pages devoted to advertisements of matters of interest to farmers,) and is offered at the following rates:—
Single copy, one year, \$1 00
Four copies, \$3; seven copies, \$5; Fifteen copies, \$10
Payments, in all cases, must be made in advance.—
Subscribers in gold coins, current bank notes, or postage notes, may be made by mail at our risk.
AGENTS.—Postmasters and Merchants throughout the country are authorized to act as Agents, and every friend of the enterprise is respectfully requested to aid in extending its circulation.
ADVERTISING.—Advertisements are inserted in the ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT of the Valley Farmer at the following rates:—One insertion of 12 lines, \$1; each additional insertion, 50 cents; 12 lines one year \$6; each additional 12 lines one year, \$4; one page, one insertion, \$7; each additional insertion, \$5; one page, yearly, \$60; Cards of six lines or less, one year, \$5.

Gift Enterprises.

We have learned from various sources that by some unaccountable stupidity our name has been connected with one of those gambling schemes denominated "Gift Enterprises." We assure our friends, one and all, that since we got whipped at school for getting up a "pin lottery," we have had nothing to do with anything of the kind. We have ever refused to advertise them. There are more Abbotts than yourself in the world, and even in St. Louis, and though we glory in the name, and as a general thing have abundant cause to respect all who bear it; yet there is now and then a scaly person of that name, but we are happy to know that he is nokin of ours.

Writing Letters.

"The Duke of Richmond, who was once Post Master General, states that about one thousand letters every year are put into the Post Office without any address whatever."

We have no doubt but the Duke is right, and moreover that many times that number are put in without signature or date. Hardly a day passes but we receive a letter dated at "Brush-hill Farm," or "Goose Meadow," or "Locust Plantation," or some other name that the fancy of residents has affixed to their homestead, and which, though very well known to all the people of their "world of ten miles square," is quite unknown to us. Perhaps the writer wants his paper stopped, or may be he wants to subscribe for it, or pay his subscription; but he utterly fails to name the Post Office through which he sends and receives his correspondence. If we happen to identify the envelop which covered his letter, and are able to decipher the Post-mark (a thing not attainable more than once in six times on an average) we can get along. If not we must lay the letter by until the writer gets tired of waiting, when he will give us a blowing-up for carelessness or negligence. Others with the same results write the name of their county, and nothing else.

Very often we receive letters without any signature, and sometimes in guessing at who the writer is we make a sad mistake; get a scolding for our blunders, and a threat to have nothing more to do with us or our paper.

We were about inditing some directions to correspondents, but we find that our

good brother of the *Prairie Farmer* has done it to our hand:

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- 1.—Please to date your letters: writing upon them the Post Office, County, and State, where you receive your mail. If your letter contains money, say so, and how much.
- 2.—If you write a part as private matter, and a part to be published, do not mix them together; but put each part so that they can be separated.
- 3.—If you return a paper as "Refused," write upon it the Post Office where it is received, so that we may know at once where it is returned from. Do not neglect this, if you please.
- 4.—Write with black ink, on white paper; and if you state facts so that you can understand them yourself, we shall be likely to understand them also.
- 5.—Do not stop a paper till all arrearages are paid. If you do, the publisher has a right to think you do not mean to pay him. If you want to stop, pay up, and everybody will say you are a man.
- 6.—Do not wait till you are dunned, to find out that you have not got half your papers, or that it is good for nothing. If you do not get the paper get the Post Master to write—which he can do if he pleases—or write yourself, and let it be known.
- 7.—All letters must now be prepaid or they will not be sent from the office where they are mailed.

Just our case Exactly.

In December last we sent out bills to nearly all our subscribers who appeared on our books as indebted to us one dollar or more. Our experience in the case has been so like that of Brothers W. & W. of the *Prairie Farmer*, that we give their story, premising that without any "variation it will answer for the latitude of" the VALLEY FARMER.

"**THOSE BILLS.**—To be able to get in some of the cash due us on subscription, we have been sending out bills to such as have suffered their payments to lapse. All who owed little or much previous to January, 1855, have been, or should have been, thus honored. The bills were made out by a clerk, and as our books have been for some time kept by clerks, of course there are some mistakes.

It is laughable to see how differently different men receive these little recollection-jogging messengers. Some don't say a word, but just put their hands into their pockets, and with a jerk—"Mister, here's your cash." Others are 'glad,' some 'thankful' to be reminded of their dues—had really forgotten how much they did owe. Others stand up straight; 'Well, Mister, you want your money, do you; here it is.' Others think 'you needn't be in a sweat about it; guess they are good for small sums.' Another 'reckons he can't owe so much as that; he gave a dollar to the Post Master a while ago—guesses it was a year, or perhaps two years—aint certain; but

as you want it, here 'tis.' Another 'knows you are wrong; don't owe three dollars, has paid up to this year, and here is one dollar, and if you don't like that, stop your paper.' It is terrible to see how we quake and turn white, and how our knees smite each other, when we get these fulminating documents.—We are easily scared, we are, and leap to obey such minations. Another bristles, flares, struts, boils over: 'Keep your paper at home, did'n't subscribe for it, wait till I order it.'—Of course it has taken him from three to five years to find all this out. Another 'Don't owe any thing, never got only one or two numbers four years ago until this one which contained the bill.'

Fathers and Sons.

How often do we hear boys in this fast age speak of *working for the Old Man*, in a way that conveys the impression that they consider that while working with and for their parents they are rendering them a service for which they receive nothing.—If such thoughtless youths would consider the matter rightly, they would at once see that while thus employed they are working far more for themselves than for their parents, as the reasonable expectation may be that the children will much longer and in a much larger degree enjoy the fruits of the united toil of parents and children, than the parents. The "elder son" spoken of by our Savior, who murmured that no feast was prepared for him, though he had served his father long and faithfully, was wisely answered—"all that I have is thine."—So now, the youth who faithfully, cheerfully, and dutifully strives to promote the interests of his father will find that by so doing he is pursuing the very surest course to promote his own best interests. We have been led to note down these things for the consideration of our young readers from reading a private postscript attached to a communication sent us and published a few months since. The writer after alluding to his early difficulties while a roaster, when his sons were small, and he had to put two of them to one plow to assist each other to draw it back when it would slip, &c. says of them, that he wished to give them all employment (and he had six) under his

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own eye, and have them understand that what they did would eventually be more for their own interest than for their parents, as the parents are only preparing for them. We are happy to know that his hopes and expectations have been realized; that his sons have cheerfully aided their father, and that what has been gained will eventually revert to them. And even if it were not so, is not the consciousness that they have done their duty, have honored and obeyed their parents, a better reward than all the gains of boyhood away from home; even if the youth escapes all the temptations and vices which destroy so many of the young when removed from the watchful guardianship of kind parents. Remember, boys, "there is no place like home."

FINE PICTURES.

We have received from Mr. Samuel Thorne, of Thornedale, Dutchess county, N. Y., two elegant colored engravings, one of the Short Horned Bull, Grand Duke, the other of the Short Horned Cow Duchess. Both of these animals were bred by the late Thos. Bates, Esq., of Kirklevington, England, and purchased (the Cow for \$3,000, the Bull for \$5,000) and imported by Jonathan Thorne. They are now the property of Samuel Thorne, Thornedale, Washington Hollow, Dutchess county, N. Y. We have the pictures at our office where all who take pleasure in looking at fine pictures of fine animals are invited to call and see them. If it should be so that we can, we shall be very happy to visit Mr. Thorne and take a look at the "originals."

THE CHINTZ BUG.—The Paris (Mo.) Mercury, of the 25th. April says that the farmers in that vicinity are expressing their fears that, if the present season should prove a dry one, their crops will be ruined by the chintz bug, swarms of them having already made their appearance in different localities; and there are some fears that these bugs have already commenced their depredations on the growing oat and wheat crop.

OLD ARTICLES.—A correspondent in Saline county writes: "I observe some of your old subscribers desire you to republish some things that have been published; but if they placed as high an estimate upon the Valley Farmer as I do, and preserved each number as though it were a gold dollar, I think they would not trouble you about old items." We are well aware that there are many of our old patrons, who have been with us all through our career that have preserved their copies of the paper, and often recur to them with pleasure and profit, but the number of such, compared with the number of persons who now read the Farmer, and who never saw it in its early days is comparatively small, and we have therefore felt justified in occasionally republishing an important article. But we do not intend often to inflict such things upon our readers.

HEDGE FENCES.—We call attention to the advertisement of Mr. Sleeper, to be found in another column. The amount of capital employed in the construction and repair of fences in the United States, would be deemed fabulous, were not the estimates founded on statistical facts, which admit of no dispute. A well known agricultural writer says: "Strange as it may seem, the greatest investment in this country, the most costly productions of human industry, are the common fences, which divide the fields from the highways, and separate them from each other. No man dreams that when compared with the outlay for those unpretended monuments of art, our cities, and our towns, with all their wealth, are left far behind."

RUTA BAGAS.—A correspondent wishes information in regard to the time of sowing the seed of this turnip, kind of soil, &c.—"Turnip time" extends from the 15th of June to about the 15th of July, and this is the proper time to sow the Ruta baga. Prepare your ground in the best manner, have it rich, well pulverized, and deeply plowed. Then sow in two-foot drills, and thin out, to eight or ten inches apart.

Prospects.

Now is the seed time with the farmer; for a month past and for a month to come, he has been and will be busy, stimulated by the encouraging prospects which meet him on every side, of an abundant harvest. The weather has been fine and at this time (May 1,) all is promising. In this latitude we have good reason to anticipate a full crop of fruit; the wheat as a general thing never looked better, oats are up and looking finely; the meadows and pastures are dressed in the deepest green. We have taken some pains to learn the appearance of the wheat crop in different sections of the great Valley. All tell the same story—it looks fine; and from our cotemporaries we obtain the same information in regard to the country at large.

The Vincennes (Ind.) Gazette says that the wheat, as a general thing, throughout the country never looked better, or presented finer prospects for a heavy crop. The same may be said of rye. Oats, in many cases, are coming on finely. Of wheat and rye, about an average breadth of land was sown last fall. The quantity of land sown in oats is probably larger than usual. The breadth of land which will be planted with corn, is from one-fourth to one-half larger than was ever before cultivated for that crop in the southern parts of Indiana and Illinois. It is probable there will not be so many potatoes planted as heretofore, on account of scarcity and high price of seed. On the whole, however, should the season be favorable throughout, there will unquestionably be most abundant crops of all the staple articles in this part of the country.

In South-eastern Missouri, as we learn from the *Cape Girardeau Eagle*, and from individuals visiting the city from that section of the State, the wheat crop looks remarkably fine. The *Eagle* estimates that full one third more wheat than usual was sown last fall; so that if the crop meets with no backset between this and harvest, there will be a large surplus for market.

In Kentucky and Tennessee, as we learn from the *Hickman Argus*, the prospects

for an abundant wheat crop were never better than at present. A great deal more than the usual amount was sown last fall, in order to supply the deficiency in the corn crop, which will be mostly felt in the coming summer months. Hence with an ordinary season more than an average yield may be expected, but as such a vast quantity was sown, a more abundant harvest will be gathered, than ever before known in this region of country.

The *Baltimore Patriot* say: "So far as accounts have reached us they are favorable to the growing crops. Our information is based upon notices in the various newspapers, and drawn from conversation with farmers, as well as from merchants and others who have traveled recently through different regions of the country. All concur in saying that the indications are decidedly favorable; that vegetation has started luxuriantly, and that the prospects of an abundant harvest are most cheering. From the South, where spring comes earlier, and the season is further advanced, we have good accounts. Several gentlemen, who traveled recently through Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, concur in representing the crops as looking unusually well. The same may be said of Ohio and other Western States.

In Maryland, within a fortnight past, vegetation has sprung up with wonderful rapidity, and we have cheering intelligence from every part of the State. At the early opening of spring, resulting from a somewhat protracted and severe winter, prospects were rather discouraging, but the genial atmosphere, fructifying showers and favorable weather of April have brought forward grain, as well as fruit, and all descriptions of vegetation, with unusual rapidity. They are now beyond danger from frost, and not having suffered previously, nothing but an unusual season of drought, and some unforeseen accident, can easily prevent a full harvest.

The *Pittsburgh Chronicle* say: Reports relative to the coming crop continue to reach our ears. Three gentlemen residing

in our sister city, who have been on a visit to several parts of the West, speak highly of the appearance of crops in all the agricultural districts through which they traveled. One of them was in Iowa; another in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a third in Illinois. In short, they had a fair opportunity of judging and their statements can be relied on as correct. In our own State, things bid fair. Jailor Crawford, while on a late visit to Harrisburg, in company with an insane prisoner, took occasion to visit his relatives in different counties, and speaks in glowing terms of the prospects of the coming harvest.

The *Cincinnati Gazette* says: "It is old fashioned April weather, and gives hope of a merry summer and bountiful harvest. From our farmers we learn that they have made good use of the time, and have been diligently bringing up their spring work. They represent that although the season is very late, peaches are just beginning to blossom, yet it is highly favorable for fruits and vegetables; wheat never looked better."

The *Louisville Courier* says: the effect of the recent rains and the present warm weather has been most beneficial to the growing crops. There is every indication of an unusually full harvest of wheat, oats, barley, &c. For the latter crops the farmers are busily preparing their lands, wisely availing themselves of the delightful weather that now prevails through the country. Should, however, the heat from which towns-people are suffering, continue any great while uninterrupted by rain, the most serious consequences would ensue.

The *Chicago Democrat* believes there has not for many years been a spring when the wheat throughout the country gave such promises of an abundant harvest as it does now. From all parts of that State it has the same intelligence. The fields of Iowa and Missouri are also very promising, and the most favorable accounts are received from Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and the wheat growing portions of New York and Canada.

The *Chicago Journal* thinks that the

promise of an abundant wheat harvest almost throughout the entire West, was never more flattering than now. If Nature keeps her promise a while longer, there will be a grand harvest song by and by.

The *Michigan Sentinel* says all its accounts from the country agree in representing the growing wheat as first rate, and giving promise of an abundant crop, and the farmers are putting into spring wheat a great breadth of land.

The Michigan papers are unanimous in their report that the prospect in the Peninsular State was never more favorable for an abundant harvest.

Hollow Horn.

The remarks of Dr. DADD in a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Legislative Agricultural Meeting, which we copy from the *Genesee Farmer*, will be found of interest in reference to this disease.

"Dr. Dadd, of Boston, said veterinary science had been too long neglected in this country. There were many who pretended to prescribe for diseases of animals without knowing anything about them, and would commence some funny operations.

They would examine the horns and would sometimes bore into them, and perhaps let out a little pus, if they found the horn cold.

He considered, however, that heat or cold on the surface were only symptoms. If the surface was hot, the circulation was active; if cold the reverse was true.

There was a communication from the horn to the nares, or nostril, and any pus in the horn would of course run down through the nostril, instead of upwards into the horns!

Sometimes this might become tenacious, so as to stop its passage. Then it was requisite to steam the nostril to make it run down. By penetrating the living membrane, or by admitting the atmospheric air by boring, inflammation was apt to ensue.

He maintained there was no such disease as "horn ail." Has examined animals said to die of horn ail. Has found a softening of the brain. And this arises often from an improper condition of the stomach.

There is a perfect channel to the tip of the horn. There are longitudinal divisions of the horn, and if in boring, the gimlet hits one of the partitions, it seems to be solid. If it chances to go between two of these partitions it would appear to be hollow.

The cold horn is really only a circumstance indicative of the state of circulation in the system."

White Oak Bark.

We have for some time had it upon our mind to indite an article upon the merits of the bark of the White Oak as a curative agent. We can write experimentally on the subject, for we have tested its qualities on our own person, on members of our family, and upon domestic animals. And in all cases where used, it has proved one of the most valuable of astringents and curatives.

Eight years ago we were brought to the brink of the grave, by a long protracted chronic diarrhoea. The bowels were badly ulcerated; food passed rapidly through the system, without undergoing much change; large doses of laudanum or opium only seemed to control the action of the bowels for a few hours, and then the reaction was worse than before taking the medicine. We had tried Alliopathy, Homeopathy, and Hydropathy, and all to no purpose, and in the early part of the summer of 1847 were advised by our physician to make a trip to the North, as we could not probably live through the summer in St. Louis. He has since told us that it was his opinion that we could not live ever to return to St. Louis, and he thought it extremely doubtful about our reaching Boston alive.

Of the trials of that journey we cannot now speak in detail; of our sickness at Cincinnati, at Buffalo, on the canal, when death seemed near at hand, and our devoted, and feeble wife was compelled to peril life and limb to procure suitable medicine and sustenance for her apparently dying husband and infant. But we were preserved and in due time arrived at the home of our fathers, to go through the same round in New England, of consulting and medicating; pills and tinctures, compounds and simples, diets and emollients, that had been travelled over here, and with the same results, getting no better, but rather worse.

The living doctor having utterly failed to render us any service, our dear partner betook herself to the books to see if in all the "theory and practice" of the healing

art there was recorded the cure of such a disease as the one with which we were afflicted. In her researches she read of the successful treatment of an apparently similar affection in a British soldier who had been sent home from the East and was at the time of the commencement of the cure lying in the dead, or dying, ward of a military hospital. As in our case, his had been pronounced a case of *cancer of the bowels*, and he was regarded as "incurable," but as a last resort the attendant physician ordered a bath of a solution of oak bark and copious injections of the same, made very strong; he was also required to drink it freely. The result was a speedy and permanent cure. Promptly acting upon these hints, a good supply of the bark was obtained, a large quantity injected three or four times a day into the bowels, and it was also drank freely. And this treatment pursued perseveringly, patiently, and uninterruptedly for months, at length wrought a permanent cure.

The mode of preparation and application was this: With a drawing knife or axe the bark was taken from the tree; the rough, outer bark taken off, and the inner bark put into an iron vessel and boiled in water for several hours, then strained and the liquid was ready for use. When used as an injection, a large portion—a pint or more—was first given, which soon came away, bringing any quantity of caps of the ulcers with which the bowels were apparently lined; after this a small quantity made very strong, was given with 25 or 30 drops of laudanum, which at first would restrain the action of the bowels, for two or three hours, afterwards, as the cure progressed, for a longer period. Bandages wet with some stimulating spirits, were applied around the abdomen to stay up the bowels. All other remedies had failed, and after commencing the use of this, all others were laid aside, and we ascribe our full, entire recovery, under the blessing of God, and the ceaseless, sleepless watchfulness of our beloved companion, to the use of the oak bark.

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Since then we have often used it to wash obstinate sores with great success. Applied in a bread poultice to a deep ulcer from a neglected blister it speedily effected a cure, and we do not know that we have ever tried it without having occasion to be satisfied with the results. But one of the most remarkable instances of its virtues was in the following case of its application to the foot of a horse:

Going to the stable one morning, we found our horse quite lame, and thinking that perhaps he had stepped on a nail, we led him to the blacksmiths near by, had the shoe taken off and the foot examined, but as no signs of injury were discovered, the smith said the difficulty was not in the foot but in the shoulder, and he was treated with sundry rubbings, applications of liniment, spirits turpentine, &c., all to no purpose, and as he continued to get worse, a farrier was sent for, who after paring away a great part of the hoof, at length found where the nail had penetrated. By this time pus had commenced forming, which increased rapidly, and in a few days the foot was one mass of corruption. We believe that by inserting a finger above the hoof and passing it round we could have taken the hoof entirely off without any difficulty. Poultices, bathings, liniments, all did no good at all, and we resorted to the oak bark. The foot and leg were bathed in it, a poultice made of it and applied with a long bandage wet in it and this kept wet and renewed twice a day. Soon the sores began to heal, and in a short time the foot was well as ever.

In addition to what we have written of our own experience, we have just met in the *Typecanoe Farmer* with the following account of the successful treatment of *Morris* in cattle by the same means. It was communicated to the Farmer by Mr. C. Hays, who has had considerable experience of the disease and formerly lost a good many of his cattle, but latterly has succeeded in curing every case among his own cattle and some for others. His mode of procedure is as follows:

Take White Oak Bark newly peeled from the tree, as much as you can easily encompass with the thumbs and fingers of both hands. Boil this in one gallon of water for a short time; then pour the water off, and dissolve in it a lump of alum the size of a hulled walnut, and a lump of copperas of the same size. With this mixture drench the sick animal and the cure will soon be effected. In only one instance did he have need for any additional remedy, and then to facilitate the opening of the bowels, he administered a plate of lard.

CLOVER.—“Can clover be sown and harrowed in upon a yard that has been thickly set in blue grass, which was killed by the intense heat of last summer? If so what time will be the best to do it?”

If the blue grass was killed by the heat, there is no blue grass there, so that would not interfere at all with the growth of the clover, and whether harrowing the ground would be sufficient for it will depend upon its condition. To grow clover ground should be as mellow as to grow corn. It may be sown in the spring, or in August or September.

FROST.—We had frost on the mornings of May 7, 8, and 9. The weather was very dry, and there was considerable wind so that we hope not much damage was done. We incline to think the fruit was not much injured, if at all. The *Jacksonville Journal* of the 10th says:—“Severe frosts occurred on Tuesday and yesterday mornings, it is feared injuring to a considerable extent the early crops, and especially the tender growth of the gardens. It is hoped, however, that the heavy foliage on the fruit trees has protected the fruit from harm in this region, though it has probably been much injured further north.”

OWEN'S PRAIRIE PLOW.—Within the last month this plow has been well tested in this State and also in Illinois. It has worked well; fully up to expectation and warrant. We have no doubt that it is the best prairie plow in use.

—We like the spirit of the following communication from the pen of a working farmer in Illinois. We hope the advocates of fall plowing will give us the other side of question. We do wish we could stir up more of a writing disposition among the farmers of the Great West. If you have nothing else to tell of, tell of your disappointment, and if you think you know but little tell us what that is and how you learned it. The plain, unvarnished tale of a man's experience is the most interesting of all literature, and the most instructive:

For the Valley Farmer.

Fall Plowing.

MR. EDITOR.—I do not think that I am in any respect qualified for writing anything that would be worthy of a place in your valuable paper, but like every other fool, I have presumption enough to attempt it, and it won't take you long to read it, condemn it, consign it to the fire, or print it, just as you please. I have both seen and heard a good deal lately about fall plowing and corn raising, and feeling myself interested in these things I thought of showing my opinion also.

First, about fall plowing: I think it is only under some circumstances that it is at all profitable. I have tried it three different times, and have never perceived the least benefit, and in the last instance I thought injury was done. Now for the reasons. First, by plowing in the the fall bare ground is exposed to the freezings and thawings of the winter, which in this part of the country follow each other about like night and day, until the ground is all run together like a bed of cement, for sometimes in the morning we may see it as hard and as sharp almost as a stone, and before three o'clock in the evening it is all running together like so much soft soap, and by the time spring arrives, the ground is in a very bad state for cultivation.

My second reason is that it is almost impossible to get our stubble plowed down in the summer before the seeds of the weeds and grass ripen. So we turn down a whole host of weeds and grass of every des-

cription, the seeds of which lie almost entirely safe till spring, when we plow it again which we must do to get it in any kind of fix, and then we give life and vigor to every discription of unwanted and unneeded vegetable, and it is now that general green takes the field, and ten to one if he does not hold it all summer, independent of your corn, and in defiance of your horse and plow.

Third reason: I think the ground is harder, more husky and dry looking all summer than when not plowed in the fall; neither will it make as fine a mold, pulverize and become damp as it will in other cases. And now until I am assured that it is a great benefit, I shall remain sure that it is a great loss. Indeed I cannot find time to fall plow if I wished to ever so much, for every farmer has enough to do after harvesting his wheat to plow his fallow ground again, thresh wheat and go to mill, &c, the weather is hot, the flies bad, the ground is too hard and dry to plow, and before he is aware, it is time to seed wheat, or cut up stalk corn, and perhaps both need to be done at the same time, and by the time they are attended to the wheat is to be threshed and sent to market, and ere this is all disposed we have either frost or mud, and the corn is not gathered yet. Under these circumstances who would think of plowing, if he was not sure it would be a great benefit to himself? I would here remark, hower that this last reason, is not a very good one, I always conquer "I can't," —a bad answer a poor reason.

But I am told by my fall-plowing brother that he can commence plowing his ground from one to three weeks sooner in the spring than I can. Well, we are willing to admit that there is something in this, but we will also admit that he can have the privilege, if he esteems it such, to plow his corn from one to three more times during the season to keep it in the same order, and to bring it to the same degree of perfection; but to answer this objection we may say that if the ground is put in a proper shape and condition to preserve

The corn will be filled, and the farmer will know those who off the then keep the and of the growing. I intend to say some and profit probably of my "u ing for a as I have the know into the V thousands

the former wheat crop from water and winter weather, and kept in the same position, with the ends of the furrows and ditches kept sufficiently open and clean, by the time a good planting season arrives the field is dry enough to work well, and then it will retain its moisture until the other is dried into a dust.

We are told that fall plowing will kill the cut worms and other insects that injure our corn crop. Now, if this were a fact, we would say that it should be listened to with a great deal of attention, but we have never seen any thing that would convince us that such is the case.

Enough of objecting, and now for some of the advantages of our own plan, and they are easily told. In the first place, by letting the ground lay till late in the spring, every thing that will grow has already started, and by turning the whole under a heavy furrow, that which has begun to grow will die, and those seeds which have not started, if any such there be, will be so long getting to the surface that the corn will have a fine start, and be able to bear such culture as will enable us to destroy weeds with ease.

The second advantage is, that, we think, corn will grow faster and ranker, be easier tilled, ear better, and stand the drouth better. This is our opinion, which we acknowledge is no proof, but all we say to those who do not believe it, is, try it; but if you try it at all try it right, and not skim off the surface an inch or two deep, and then keep tumbling about all the old stubble and weeds with their seeds on the top of the ground, to annoy you and choke the growing corn.

I intended, when I began to write, to say something about raising corn with ease and profit, but my sheet is about full, and probably I have said enough to keep some of my "upper ten" brother farmers laughing for a month, but let them tell their story as I have told mine, and let us throw all the knowledge of the west about farming into the Valley Farmer, so that all the thousands that read its valuable pages may

have a share. Let no one say I can't, for if you knew me you would say, "well I can do as well as he can." Neither let any one suppose he is under no obligation, and say "am I my brother's keeper?" Yes, you are morally bound to tell what you know would be of advantage to your fellow man, and to do it now, for you may never have another opportunity. Life is uncertain, death is sure.

J. G. M.

From Oregon.

Correspondence of the Valley Farmer.

ST. HELENS, O. T. March 17, 1855.

MR. ABBOTT.—Will you please to forward, on receipt of the enclosed five dollars, seven copies of the Valley Farmer to the above direction?

I have been a subscriber for two years, and am much interested in your valuable work. I have endeavored to get you a few subscribers and expect to add in a few mails, more to the list.

Our winter, always mild, has been unusually so this winter; peach orchards in full blossom the last six weeks; apple trees and other fruits equally forward—the fall and spring grain in a healthy condition.

Boquets from the flower garden on our table throughout the winter. I should be happy at any time to write to you but I am no farmer in experience, have only a few years retired from an ocean life and come to snug anchorage on six hundred acres of land in Oregon. Respectfully yours,

F. A. LEMONT.

RAIN.—Our citizens wore happier faces yesterday afternoon, upon the advent of a copious and invigorating fall of rain, than we have noticed gracing them for a long time. And indeed all had reason for congratulation and joy, for it was the first rain of any magnitude that has fallen here since June last; and in point of quantity, was equal, if not superior, to any one rain that has visited this city for the last eight and twenty months. The rain, to all appearances, was general, and if so will prove of incalculable value to the country.—But we hear that much damage has been done by the mad torrent in its endeavor to "find its level." We hear but little from the country, but fear that the growing crop, and fencing, have sustained some damage. The rain was accompanied with hail.—*Lexington Express.*

THE CORN PLANTER.—A very considerable number of Randall & Jones' Corn Planters have been sold this season, and we are happy to know that in most instances they have been well approved. A few individuals have objected, not to the principle, but to the workmanship. Dr. Leigh will publish, in a subsequent number of the Farmer, a full report of both success and failure. In the mean time we give a few extracts from some letters received from some of our subscribers who have given the planter an actual trial in the field.

Mr. W. Russell, of Arcadia, Mo., writes: "We like the Corn Planter very much for several reasons; first, because of the expedition of the work; also, from the ease with which it is worked—the simplicity of its construction. We have used the Planter on several pieces of ground, and find it works as well as could be expected under the circumstances. We can plant, in regard to speed, just about at the same rate that two men would cover with the hoe. If the ground is cloddy we cannot plant so fast; but, if it is well pulverised, it will plant and do the work well, as fast as any man is disposed to walk, or can walk. I believe that five acres is considered good work for one man to cover with a hoe per day. I am satisfied that a man with the Planter can do twice that amount with greater ease than five acres with the hoe, besides saving his droppers.

Mr. G. Elgin, of Howard Co., writes:—"I am much pleased with the Planter. Now, that I have got it properly adjusted, it plants well. My Planter now plants from three to five grains, seldom ever varying."

Dr. J. A. Talbot, of Howard co., writes: "Where the ground was in good condition, there was no trouble in covering—the earth falling into the hole; and when it was wet and would pack, as it would after rains, I found no difficulty in covering with the planter, by making a second set of holes just back of the first containing the corn, so as to force the dirt into the holes and over the corn. I planted when the ground was

quite wet; we could not get over so fast, having to make two sets of holes every time. The planter got a little out of order for the first three days, occasionally, but never after. The slides did not fit very well, and after that was corrected, which was done in a few minutes, all went well. Our smallest day's work, wet ground, was about five acres a day, our largest, about eight acres a day. None of our ground was in good, mellow order.

My corn is now all up, and I am running the cultivator through it. I like the looks of that planted with the planter very well. It is much more regularly placed in the hill, and of more uniform quantity.

NEW BOOK.

We have received from C. M. Saxton & Co., Agricultural Booksellers, N. Y., "The Practical Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Gardener's Companion, with Calendar by Patric Neill, LL.D., F.R.S.E., Secretary to the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. Adapted to the United States. From the Fourth Edition, Revised and improved by the Author. Edited by G. Emerson, M. D., Editor of Johnson's Farmers' Encyclopedia. With Notes and Additions by R. G. Pardee, Author of 'Manual of the Strawberry Culture.' With Elegant Illustrations."

We do not know that we can give a more comprehensive view of the scope of the work, than to make the following extracts from the Preface to this, the revised American Edition:

The standard Fruits of our country which have obtained the sanction of that intelligent body, the American Congress of Fruit-growers, up to, and including their last meeting in Boston, in September, 1854, is given in full under their appropriate heads.

A more select list of reliable fruits has also been prepared and placed after the Calendar, and which is particularly commended to those selecting for the Middle and Northern States.

This work is pre-eminently suggestive.

The reader will be surprised at the amount of valuable thought and accurate information herein embodied. We are not acquainted with any similar work in our country which extends over so wide a range of fruits, vegetables and flowers. True, many things are referred to briefly and yet distinctly.

The work is quite full and complete on the subject of Hot and Forcing Houses; their construction, heating by steam, hot water, &c.; the cultivation in them of the Grape, the Peach, Fig, Pine Apple, &c.

The illustrations of the work are worthy of particular notice on account of their great accuracy and beauty, and the farmer, the gardener, the fruit-grower, or the amateur, will find it when carefully studied, a very useful and acceptable help, and prove worthy of an extensive circulation.

Correspondence of the Valley Farmer.

PERRYVILLE, Mo., April 22, 1855.

MR. E. ABBOTT:—Dear Sir:—We have had fine weather here for ten days past and every thing looks green; wheat begins to look fine; oats has come up well and looks well; people have begun to plant corn. In fine I believe that the scarcity of the past winter has made every body more determined to try to raise a good crop, than any thing that has happened for a long time. Many old Cows have given up the ghost during the past winter, and every thing brings fine prices. I have known oats to sell for \$4 per 100 sheaves; corn \$1.05 per bushel. Stock that is in order for work is very high. But what has become of the Valley Farmer? I sent you the money for four subscribers, and we got the January number, but we have not heard from it since. Now, if it has "blown up" please refund my money; and if it is in operation please send us our papers beginning with the February No., 1855, and oblige your friend and humble servant,

LEO MOORE.

REMARKS.—The Valley Farmer, or rather its publisher, has been "blown up" more than once for similar acts of negligence, but so far he has always had the

good fortune to come down right side up. The omission to send was purely accidental, and will be remedied in future.

DRILLED WHEAT.—We have been told by several persons who have noticed the growing wheat in fields where it was sown broadcast, lying adjacent to those where the wheat was drilled in, that there is a very decided and manifest superiority in the appearance of that planted by the latter method.

See advertisement.

GOPHERS.

Mr. T. SIVETER, of Iowa, gives in the *Genesee Farmer*, the following directions for treating these troublesome little pests:

Where gophers are at work and the hills recent, say made the previous night, open the hill and expose the burrow about a foot in length wide enough to let in a common steel rat trap; clean out the dirt nicely, and excavate a space at the bottom of the burrow deep enough to receive the trap, already finely set, so that the jaws and treadle will be slightly below the plane of the bottom of the burrow; cover the trap very lightly with finely pulverized earth; so that the top of the earth over the trap and the bottom of the burrow be on the same plane; cover the hole with a board, broad and long enough to prevent any other dirt from falling on the trap; haul fine dirt all around the edge of the board to exclude all light. Teach the boys how to do it right, and give them a dime for each gopher caught. I speak from experience, and this is the best way I know of. Other ways are, open the hole by the side of the hill, when the gopher will shortly bring dirt to stop it up—shoot him. When the earth is full of water, they occupy chambers in their mounds—dig them out. Sink a jar glazed inside one foot deep in the bottom of the burrow, in lieu of a steel trap; cover its mouth with a cabbage leaf or its equivalent, and finish as directed for steel trap. They will fall in and cannot get out without help. Dose apples, or potatoes, &c., with strychnine, lay them in their burrows and exclude the light.

FINE ROSES, JAPONICAS, &c.—Our readers are referred to the card of Mr. Salisbury, on our first advertising page. Mr. S. has the finest collection of these choice and beautiful plants we have seen for a long time. Give him a call.

For the Valley Farmer.

In the article on Cross-marking, in the February number, it is recommended, "if we wish to stir and pulverise the soil along the rows before putting in the seed," to "insert a small cultivator-tooth at the point or forward end of the wedge-maker."

The direction should rather have been, to insert the tooth near the *hind-end* of the worker, say six or twelve inches from the back end. The tooth or pin, whichever may be used, will then come some two feet *after* the cross piece, and thus steady the movement of the maker, and enable the farmer to make straight rows more easily.

It is said to be a good plan, instead of "framing in a tongue," to put two riags into the front side of the long cross piece, each being placed four feet from the centre (if a four row marker, which is the best.) The rings will then be eight feet apart, and to them the traces are to be hitched,—using long traces and no tongue. By this arrangement the marker moves more steadily, and does not *weave* of swing back and forth so much, with the motion of the horse. I have this from Mr. D. De Graff, a very intelligent farmer of Cherry Valley, Winnebago Co. Ill, who is engaged in raising Broom Corn, and is very particular to mark off his ground in perfectly true rows. He places his handles, made in the form of plow handles, directly over the two middle runners, of his four row marker, and, as he is very exact in his rowing, he allows two runners to go in the last two rows already marked out, thus only marking two new rows at a time. He holds the marker by only *one* handle, and walks in the last row already marked out, thus having the line of that row directly before his eye. Each farmer must judge for himself, but I have confidence in his statement and should judge his plan to be a good one, especially where great exactness is sought. In all ordinary cases, it will be enough to let *one* runner run in the last row already marked out, and so mark out three new ones at once.

Mr. De Graff uses a *pin*, some two or

three inches square and three inches long, made to taper nearly to a point. This marks the line of the row very exactly.

E. LEIGH.

For the Valley Farmer.

Staggers in Sheep and Hogs.

MR. ABBOTT:—Having read your valuable paper—the Valley Farmer—for several years, and believing it to be the farmers' instructor in many things, I have thought my practical experience in the cure of a disease in hogs and sheep, known as "Staggers," or "Turn Round," in the Western country, might be worth publishing, as the disease has been very fatal in some sections. The cure I claim to be my own, as I discovered it by accident. When living in Kentucky, my hogs took the above named complaint and many of them died. In the year 1818, I had among my stock a fine Calcutta sow which took the complaint and run round and fell over seemingly in the agonies of death, her muscles being contracted and her snout drawn back,—While she lay in that situation I took out my knife and cut her lip string and the blood veins close to her gums. She bled about half a pint, and in less than twenty minutes she got up and walked off as well as ever. All the rest of my hogs I cured in the same way.

Since I came to Missouri, which was in 1820, I cured my sheep in the same way. Some three years ago, one of my neighbors came to my house to let me know that one of my sheep had the staggers and had fallen in the mud so often that he thought he would be dead in a short time. Being confined to my room, I requested him to try the above remedy. He did so; the sheep got well and came home in a short time, and since that has been driven to the St. Louis market for mutton. I do not think it necessary to cut the lip string or cord. If the blood veins are cut close to the gums, the bleeding will cure. I have tried it often.

S. PHARR.

Pike Co. Mo.

For the Valley Farmer.

Scare Crows.

Mr. Editor:—I have read in the Valley Farmer the Yankee method of scaring crows out of the corn field, by fixing posts with wires, &c. Now, some of the old Pike boys can beat the Yankees all hollow.—Capt. Oden, of this place, informed me that he had tried it some five or six years ago and the crows would not come near. He took a sheet of tin, and bored a hole through one corner, put a wire or good strong string to it, and tied it to a pole, ten or fifteen feet high. Cant the pole when it is set in the ground so that the tin will not strike the pole, and as the wind turns the sheet of tin, the reflection does the work. I have tried the above and find it keeps off both black birds and crows. One sheet of new tin will do for a twenty acre field. A pole with a limb three or four feet long I find to be best, as it will not strike the pole so much. Try it farmers if you want the crows and black birds to let your corn and oats alone. If you have not a sheet of tin take a tin pan or bucket and scour it bright, and it will do, though new tin is the best. S. PHARR.

Pike Co. Mo.

Would not some such hobgoblin scare away the birds from the cherry trees?

For the Valley Farmer.

Crimmenden, Davies Co. Mo. ?

April 2d, 1855.

Wanted.

An Agricultural Ware-house, Seed-store and Machine shop at some of our Missouri river towns, where the farmers of all this North Missouri country can buy such tools, implements and machinery as they need, and would buy personally, provided they could get them without going to St. Louis, Cincinnati, or the State of New York for them. Most farmers do not like to buy "sight unseen," and they have not the time nor means to spend to go so far. There seems to be a general interest waking upon the subject of agricultural improvement here, but we can't do much without improved machinery. This country is almost

entirely destitute of labor-saving machinery, and it seems to me that if five or six establishments of the kind indicated above can do good business in the city of St. Louis, one might pay well, either at Brunswick, Lexington, or St. Joseph. I merely drop these suggestions, friend Abbott, thinking that perhaps you might forward the movement through the Farmer, believing as I do that your motives are to benefit the whole agricultural community.

Respectfully yours,

PETER BEAT.

THE NEXT HARVEST.—The coming season may perhaps be regarded as more important to the American farmer than any we have ever had. At no period of the country's history has the supply of all kinds of food been so nearly exhausted as it will be at the period of the in-gathering of the next crops. Not only do the great scarcity of grain and the consequent high price of everything edible fall with great severity upon the comparatively poor, but many of our most wealthy farmers have suffered material losses in most kinds of farm stock from starvation. We are informed that a farmer in a neighboring county has lost cattle and hogs from this cause to the value of upwards of one thousand dollars. Much of this loss, we are confident, might have been prevented if proper care had been bestowed in husbanding the materials upon the farm, which with judicious management, could have been converted into food for stock. In view of the present scarcity, every farmer should improve in his practice of putting his crops by the most thorough preparation of his ground.

Oats.—Should be regarded as one of the most important crops for the coming season, and its cultivation should command unusual care and attention. This crop will be ready to harvest several months before the corn crop is made, and will constitute the chief dependence as food for the working animals upon the farm, as well as in the cities, and consequently will command unusual prices. Oats, if not already sown, should be put in without delay.

Corn.—Under the wholesome operation of the Maine law in Indiana and Ohio, it is not probable that so much of this grain will be converted into poison as has been in former years. Yet the price will not in consequence be materially affected. Other demands will be opened which will ultimately enhance the value of this crop. We are informed by the proprietors of the patent for the new tubular barrel, that it is their intention to engage ex-

tensively in the manufacture of corn meal for exportation as soon as the crop comes in. From what we have seen of this invention, in connection with the suppression of the manufacture of whiskey, it is destined to prove one of the most important and valuable discoveries to the Western farmer and to the world that has been made for many years.

From the Farmer and Visitor.

SPAVIN.

BY W. W. ORMOND, V. T.

The nature and seat of spavin have been much mistaken by many men that have owned horses afflicted with this disease. They have been put to much expense and anxiety, which could have been prevented, had the disease been properly understood.

I have, in my travels through cities and towns, met with men who have told me they could cure a spavin of any kind in one month; but when I questioned them as to the nature of the disease, they knew nothing about it. They did not know how many bones composed the hock joint, or how it was constructed, but they could cure.

They might cause, by some counter irritation, the horse to rest the limb, until nature could strengthen the injured parts; but in nine cases out of ten they work the wrong way, and in the place of doing good do harm by causing a greater inflammation in the joint than otherwise would have existed. As a consequence, there is more stiffness of the joint than there would have been had the poor brute not had such quackery practised on him.

Spavin is a compound of two diseases, known as exostosis and ankylosis. The former signifies hypertrophy, stiff joint, absorption of inter-articular cartilage, and substitution of bone. Ankylosis, however, does not take place in what is called the true joint, the tibia and astragalus, but it generally appears beneath the true joint, within its collateral or inferior articulations, known as the tarsal bones.

I have at my office some very fine specimens of spavin, and other ankylosis of joints which have caused lameness for some years; and I should be happy to find a man that has the ability to cure such spavins and ring-bones.

Spavin has been a disease that has had many severe experiments tried on it; but all have failed to restore the hock to its former state of soundness. Nor need we wonder at this; for when the cartilage is ossified, there is no means that we know of to restore those parts, therefore the horse must naturally have a stiffness of the joint. There have been a great many horsemen who have suffered their horses to be treated for spavin in a most brutal manner, by men that have had no more

feeling for a horse than if it had been made of iron. A gentleman has a horse, the subject of spavin, and hearing of one of those "magic men" being in the place, who can cure the spavin, the poor brute is given into the hands of his tormentor to be cured. However well qualified by observation and experience the latter class of men might be to prescribe for simple forms of disease, they cannot be trusted to perform an operation, one of the most difficult and dangerous, and one that requires a knowledge of anatomy and physiology to diagnose it with any degree of accuracy. Surely, when men unacquainted with the mechanism of a joint, undertake to restore it to a healthy state by means of agents whose actions are to them unknown, then their weapons are like a sword in the hand of a madman.

The treatment of spavin is simple enough, but far from being always effectual. The owner of the horse will neither consult his own interest nor the dictates of humanity, if he suffers the chisel, or the gimlet, or the pointed iron, or arsenic, to be used. There are means that can be taken, which will accomplish our object, and be much more to the credit of humanity. When we find that there is an inflammation in the joint, we should give the horse rest, and apply some cooling evaporating lotion to the part, but should this fail to accomplish the object, we had better apply a stimulant, such as the tincture of cantharides, applied in a mild form.

In the first place it is not best to breed from spavined mares or broken down horses. There are two causes for spavin, namely: predisposing and exciting; the latter being more rare than the former. It is true, there can in general be found an exciting cause for spavin; but if we take the pains to trace back the breed of such subjects, we shall find that it was a hereditary predisposition, and on the first opportunity it has made its appearance. A horse that has a well constructed hock seldom has spavin. We are most apt to find this malady in short, round hocks.

Spavin is so common in these parts that if a man purchase a horse with a sound hock, he thinks himself safe; but I wish the reader to understand that spavin is not always a bony tumor to be seen on the hock; there might be ankylosis of the cuneiform bones, and after the horse has been driven a short distance the lameness might disappear so that it could not be detected.

Many horses have been treated for hip and stifle lameness when it has been no other than spavin. The hock joint being the most important joint of locomotion, we should, on purchasing a horse, examine the part thoroughly, and have a good idea of its form.

The joint is composed of six bones, exclusive

of the tibia and tarsal bones. They are in two layers, the lower is three in number, called the cuneiform bones, which rest on the tarsal bones. Each of those bones is covered with elastic cartilage, and each admitting of a certain degree of motion. The diminished concussion is diffused among them all, and thereby neutralized and rendered comparatively harmless. Each of those bones is covered not only by cartilage, but by a membrane secreting synovia, so that in fact these bones are formed into so many distinct joints, separate from each other, and thereby guarded from injury, yet united by various ligaments, permitting altogether sufficient motion, yet bound together so strongly as to defy dislocation.

But there is often an injury done to those bones that is not always accounted for.—The smith often does much towards this by his injudicious management of the feet, by not making the shoes or feet level, and thereby causing the weight and concussion to be thrown on the inside splent bone, which produces inflammation of the cartilaginous ends of those bones.

And should the inflammation not be speedily subdued it will soon convert the cartilaginous substance that unites the splent bones to the shank into bone, and thereby have an enlargement and a stiffness at the joint.

I would suggest that the best way to free our country from this malady is to select such stock for breed as is perfectly free from such diseases, and leave the young colts at home when we require the services of the dam, and not do as is so commonly done in this vicinity—seven days—tie the colt to the side of its dam and drive it all day. It is much better to leave the colt at home fasting, that to overdrive the little animal so as to ruin him for life.

There has been more rain this week than for a year past. A very considerable uneasiness was being felt throughout the country, in regard to the crops. Another failure would entail lamentable consequences.

This rain has dispelled these unpleasant forebodings. Farmers can now work with renewed energy. Should the season prove favorable, we predict a heavy crop this year.

[Brunswick, May 5.]

A WESTERN FARMER.—A friend from Indiana informs us that he met Michael L. Sullivan, who sold his land on the Scioto, last year, on his way to his new home in Illinois, with a force of one hundred men and teams and tools, sufficient to put in ten thousand acres of corn this spring. It will be remembered that Mr. Sullivan was one of the large

est farmers in the State of Ohio for many years. We have heard that he could ride in a direct course fifteen miles through his own corn-fields. We hope he will be equally successful in Illinois. The reason he gave for moving was that he wanted more room to expand his operations, and he found the Grand Prairie just suited to his notions of farming on a magnificent scale.—N. Y. Tribune.

HOW MUCH SEED TO THE ACRE.—This question cannot be answered definitely, as the opinions of the farmers differ materially; and then the climate and soil have much to do with the quantity. The quantity of seed now sown broadcast to the acre, is about as follows:

Wheat,	1 1-2 to 2 bushels.
Barley	2 to 2 1-2 do
Oats	2 to 4 do
Rye	1 to 2 do
Buckwheat	3-4 to 1 1-2 do
Millet	1 to 1 1-2 do
Indian Corn	1 to 2 do
Beans	2 to 3 do
Peas	2 1-2 to 3 1-4 do
Hemp	1 to 1 3-4 do
Flax	1-2 to 2 do
Timothy	12 to 24 quarts.
Mustard	8 to 20 do
Herds' Grass (redtop)	12 to 18 do
Flat Turnips	2 to 3 pounds.
Red Clover	10 to 16 do
White Clover	3 to 4 do
Kentucky Blue Grass	10 to 15 do
Orchard grass	20 to 30 do

The quantity per acre, when planted in rows or drills, is about thus:

Broom Corn	1 to 1 1-4 bushels.
Beans	1 1-2 to 2 do
Peas	1 1-2 to 2 do
Pea Nuts	1 to 2 do
Onions	4 to 5 pounds.
Carrots	1 to 2 1-2 do
Parsnips	4 to 5 do
Beets	4 to 6 do

Our readers will do well to keep this table for reference.—Ohio Farmer.

USE OF LIME IN PLANTING TREES.—In soils deficient in lime, in any considerable degree, the use of about four bushels to the acre, applied by being incorporated thoroughly in the soil, into which the roots of the tree are to be placed, has proved to hasten the forming of new rootlets, increase the vigor of the tree, and thus aid in securing success to the planter.

Ground bones have a like effect, acting as an immediate stimulus and supplying ingredients required by nature.—Ohio Farmer.

tensively in the manufacture of corn meal for exportation as soon as the crop comes in. From what we have seen of this invention, in connection with the suppression of the manufacture of whiskey, it is destined to prove one of the most important and valuable discoveries to the Western farmer and to the world that have been made for many years.

LAST YEAR'S HARVEST.—The short harvest of last year, says the New York Post, is beginning to reveal itself now very strikingly. The opening of navigation on the river does not add to the supplies; on the contrary, the dealers of Albany and Troy are making purchases of wheat in this market. The stock of wheat is reduced to 25,000 bushels nearly all Southern and Canadian. When the canals open, it is not expected that the supplies will be heavy, either from Canada or the upper lakes, whence only supplies can be had. No supplies of grain or flour can come from Ohio or the interior of New York; so that the sources of supply, until after next harvest, are very limited. There are no receipts of importance via New Orleans, and the supplies of Southern flour are light from a want of wheat to grind. Prices, therefore, instead of falling when navigation opens, are likely to be fully maintained, if they do not actually rise.

An Experiment in deep Digging.

Last spring we took a corner of an old garden spot which, though it had always been liberally manured and plowed as well as such a piece of ground could be, and to put it in a condition for fruit trees; we gave a good dressing of manure and a thorough spading to the full depth of an un worn spade, the longest we could find in the market. In this spading operation, we often came in contact with a subsoil so stiff that it offered a strong resistance to the spade; still the spade was put in at the cost of much physical exertion. The old soil and manure were laid in the bottom of the trench, and the heterogeneous and apparently sterile material on which it had reposed, were placed upon the surface. This new earth, upon much of which the sun had never shone, and the dew had never fertilized, was, in due time, planted with garden vegetables—not, however, in expectation of much crop, for the very surface gave almost positive assurance that such things would never grow there. They were sown and planted to furnish a motive for a tillage through the season, and, in addition, the ground was planted out with dwarf Pear trees. The season in our region, as in many other sections of the country, was one of distressing drouth—but very little rain from May to October—and, in consequence, the ground on this patch was prob-

ably oftener and more thoroughly hoed than it would have been had the dews and rains fulfilled their labors as usual.

We now speak of the result. Our Pear trees (some twenty) on this patch, not only lived but made a desirable growth; and as for the vegetables—Melons, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, &c., &c., to the end of the catalogue—they gave us a crop superior to any we had raised for years.

From this operation, we infer, in the first place, that deep and thorough tillage, and frequent stirring of the earth, are good preventives of the effect of drouth. The deeper and better pulverized the soil, the greater its power of absorption; consequently whenever there is moisture in the atmosphere, such lands are certain to attract their full share of it. It is so, also, with the vegetable-nourishing gases which the air from time to time contains. Such lands also suffer less in rainy seasons from excessive moisture, for the same qualities which enable them to absorb when there is a scarcity, enable them to throw off when there is a superabundance.

In the second place, deep and thorough tillage proves, to us, conclusively that the productive powers of earth are not always as nearly exhausted as many strive to imagine, but that the vile skinning, skimming system—the plowing three, four, and five, inches deep—is what induces the sterility which so many lament. Any clayey soil—and they are among the best for many purposes—may be made as barren as the desert of Sahara by such a system. Plow shallow and the earth under the furrow will lose the influence of the two essentials of fertility, sunshine and air, and will of course, become cold, compact, and barren. Roots will avoid such earth; or, if they make an effort to penetrate it, it will be like attempting to extend themselves into a rock to meet the invigorating influences of an iceberg.

In tree-culture—especially in growing fruit trees—even a tolerable degree of success cannot be realized unless this shallow stirring of the earth is given up and the earth stirred deep. Trees may, as we have seen, sometimes live in such shallow soils, but they will always be stunted, sickly, and produce but ordinary fruit; but it is more often the case that they die in the effort to live, and then comes the bitter denunciations on the nurseryman who reared them, the adverse climate, and sometimes the locality, and even the soil, which, under favorable culture, would be just the thing for them, is blamed for the lack of those qualities which man, in his indolence, or grasping after present gain, has taken from it.

There are 36,000 paupers in the U. S.

Millet and its Culture.

MR. EDITOR:—Of the millet there are three distinct genera: the *Polish* millet, the *Indian* millet, and the *common* millet.

Of the *common* millet there are three species: the *German* the *common* or *cultivated*, and the *Italian*.

The *German* millet grows with a reed-like stalk, from two and a half to three feet high, with a leaf at each joint about one and a-half feet long, and about one inch broad at the base, ending in a sharp point, rough to the touch, surrounding the stalks terminate by compact spikes about three-fourths of an inch in diameter at the bottom, tapering to the top, six or eight inches long, and closely set with small roundish grain. It is an annual, and soon perishes after it has ripened its seeds. Of this kind of millet there are three varieties: the *white*, *yellow*, and *purple* grained.

The *Italian* millet rises also with reed-like stalk four feet high; the stalk is thicker and the leaf broader than the preceding; the spikes are from eight to twelve inches in length; they are not compact but are composed of several roundish clustered spikes. There are also two or varieties of this, distinguished only by the color of the seeds.

The above described species of the *common* millet being the only kinds cultivated in this section, I shall omit giving a description of the other kinds, and proceed at once to give my readers the benefit of my practical knowledge in reference to its culture. In consequence of my meadows being destroyed and the severity of the winter of 1854, I was of necessity compelled to substitute something for the hay crop, and finally decided upon millet. I found it very difficult to procure seed, but more difficult to procure reliable information with regard to its culture; consequently, my first year's experience was in reality a year of experiment.

The field upon which I sowed my millet was a wheat stubble. The soil sandy loam, the higher portions of the field being quite sandy, and in a medium state of cultivation; the surface undulating. During the latter part of May it was plowed ten inches deep, with a *Polly* plow, No. 2, which is one of the best stubble plows in use. The first week in June the ground was harrowed twice, lengthwise of the furrow, with a heavy double scratch harrow. The millet seed was sown immediately, at the rate of 12 quarts per acre, and followed with a light seed harrow and roller. I commenced cutting my millet the middle of August with a common grain cradle; let it lie in the swath one to two days, according to the temperature of the weather; bounds in sheaves and shooked up the same as wheat. Judging from the number and size of the loads, the

yield was two tons per acre. Had the season been favorable the produce would have been one-third more.

From my limited experience I have come to the conclusion that millet is peculiarly adapted to light warm soils, but will grow on almost any soil which is not too wet, that the soil should be plowed deep and well pulverized; that the time to sow the seed, if intended for hay, is any time during the month of June—if intended to ripen, the last week in May; that the quantity of seed if intended for hay should vary from 16 to 20 quarts—very rich soils requiring most seed to prevent the stalks from growing too rank—but, if intended to ripen, 8 to 10 quarts per acre will be quite sufficient; that the proper time to harvest, if for hay, is when the grain is just filled and the top of the head or spike is beginning to turn yellow, but if intended for seed it should fully ripen; that the best mode of harvesting is to cut with the cradle or reaper and bind into sheaves when sufficiently dry; and that the yield per acre on good soils well cultivated, will be from 3 to 4 tons of hay or 30 to 40 bushels of seed. It leaves the soil in a loose, friable state, consequently grass and clover seeds do well when sown with it.

As to its nutritious qualities, it is a regular panacea for the craving of all hungry stomachs, whether of biped or quadruped. Horses will work hard and keep in fine condition by being fed on green millet, finely cut with a straw-cutter and mixed with four quarts of ground millet seed per day, to each horse. Fed in the same way to milch cows, it will keep them fat and sleek, and cause an unusual flow of good rich milk. Colts, calves, and sheep fairly luxuriate in the green fodder. The seed fed to hens will make everlasting layers of them, whether Dorkings, Shanghaes, Poland, Spanish, or native, other necessities being provided.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Balloon Buildings.

A reference to this sort of building has called out an inquiry for the mode in which it is done. There is no need of an elaborate reply that we know, especially in this region, where erection is constantly proceeding after its manner.

That manner is substantially as follows: A foundation is laid as usual. Here, this foundation consists in small buildings, very commonly—or, rather, it did so years ago—of piles. But we would never advise their use where a better one can be had. Stone is the thing for such a purpose. Whatever be the foundation good sills are provided as in any other building, and are framed in all respects as usual. Good sized timbers are far best, and, by consequence, cheapest in the long run.

Above the sills begins the *ballooney*. All other timbers are mere scantling, of the usual sorts and sizes. The common size is 2 by 4 with 4 by 4 for the corners and for the windows and doors. The studs tenoned into the sills as usual. We have seen them *toed* to the top of them, in one instance but would never recommend it. It is our custom here to use plenty of scantling, putting them sixteen inches apart only, from center to center. The plates are nothing more than 2x4 scantling, spiked to the top of the studs.

At the height of the chamber floor a gain is cut into the studs, of an inch in depth, on the inner side, and a strip of inch board is sunk into this gain. This holds the studs laterally, and on it rest the joints of the chamber floors;—being careful to spike each joist firmly to the studs at each end. The rafters are spiked to the plates—over the tops of the studs as far as can be—and tied in the garret by strips of board, and the frame is complete without a brace or a mortice or a tenon in it, except in the sills and their adjuncts.

How is it to be braced? Some nail the *siding* or clapboards directly upon the studs and call the thing finished; but that is a miserable concern in all particulars, though it may look well enough on the outside. The way is this:

Take inch boards, somewhat dried if possible, and sheath the building all over; putting the boards edge to edge, and nailing them sure; beginning it at the ground, and carrying it to the crown of the roof. This is the *bracing*; better than all the braces with tenons and mortices ever invented—when a dwelling, or anything but a mill or warehouse is to be constructed. It braces every foot of it in the firmest manner, making it all tight and warm. On this sheathing, either siding or upright, inch boarding with battens—which is as cheap and much better—is nailed, and your walls are made. All the rest follows of course.

The balloon building requires plenty of spikes and nails. On these its strength depends; but a man can drive ten nails where he can bore half a mortice.

There is probably no great saving of wood in it, since as many pieces require to be used, but the distribution of it is better; and the whole is simpler, cheaper, and quite as effective, if not more so.—*Prairie Farmer*.

Butcher's Meat—Price and Supply.

The *New York Times*, in a late issue, winds up an article under the above caption as follows:

It is time that farmers realized the actual scarcity of beef cattle and stock which at present exists throughout the length and breadth of this whole country; and also consumers

became aware of the causes of this scarcity. In the neighborhood of all large cities, the price of milk is so great that the owner cannot afford to supply the calf with it, and so, at two days old, he sells the wretched thing to some calf-merchant, who loads a wagon with as many of them as he can pile one on top of the other, without smothering the lower tier, and has this delectable mass of tender meat transported by steamboat or railroad to the city. Often, when these poor animals arrive, they are too weak to stand up, but some body is ready to buy them, if alive, and then a butcher's cart is loaded with them, and they are driven over the rough pavement until there is a skin full of very tender meat, fit for tender stomachs.

And it is thus that the germs of fine oxen are destroyed upon all the milk furnishing farms around every city, and particularly in the vicinity of New York. Nor is this all. The price of beef has ranged so high that it has brought up the price of all farm-stock bullocks, until the owners have been tempted to accept offers for two year-old animals, that were no more suitable for beef than they were for veal. This is a most serious, as well as melancholy fact, and it is chiefly owing to the extent to which such a destructive system is carried out, that young cattle have risen to double and in many cases, quadruple their former prices.

With millions of acres of natural pastures lying idle and waste, we have no herds to transform that rich grass into human food. With a large domain of good soil, purchasable for one or two dollars an acre, we cannot receive a supply of beef at prices which would permit the mechanics of our city to buy. And all this time there are stout men and women in our cities begging for food and praying for work for able hands, while in the country such land is lying idle, and such crops of grass as are grown on our great prairies furnish food for the desolating fire, instead of food for kine, and cheap beef for the poor laborers.

It is but a few years since when beef sold throughout the Western States at 11-2 to 3 cents a pound, and the cattle-raiser did not complain. Indeed, he felt amply remunerated at such prices; and four cents a pound was a current price for good cuts upon the butcher's stall. Such a period is not likely to recur immediately; yet at such prices farmers felt just as well paid as they do now, and at half the present rates we have no doubt they would be better paid than in any other branch of agriculture. That there is a scarcity of horned cattle throughout the country at the present time, is beyond a doubt; the supply is totally inadequate to the demand. The only remedy we can suggest for immediate relief is to

transport bullocks from Texas by sea—as formerly large numbers were sent by sailing vessels from the New England States to the West India Islands. This is the only resource by which we can see a possibility of deriving a supply, for the next six months, sufficient to keep the market below famine prices.

Rearing Calves.

The almost unprecedented prices of beef have induced more attention to the rearing of cattle. The scarcity of beef is owing to various causes which have been operating for sometime. A considerable portion of the country in which cattle have formerly been fattened to a great extent, has for two years or more suffered much from the effects of drouth. In consequence of this the farmers have been under the necessity of selling their stock,—often at large sacrifices,—the scarcity of hay permitting them to keep but a small portion of their usual herds. In the Western States, large numbers of cattle have been driven to California and Oregon, instead of being fattened and sent to the eastern markets. In some instances, wool has taken the place of beef as a farm product, and in others the latter article has given way to butter and cheese.

Beef is not an article which can be produced in a season. Pork can be brought into market in abundance in a year or so from the birth of the pig. Mutton of good quality can be obtained in two years, and is sometimes had in a year and a half. But good beef requires three or four years, although with breeds which early attain maturity, many animals are killed at two and a half years old. Such young beef, however, has not the fine flavor, or so great an amount of nutriment, as that from more mature animals.

The high range of prices for beef will tend to impress upon farmers the importance of obtaining animals which will fatten to the best advantage. This is a point which has not generally received the attention it deserves, but it is to be hoped that the force of circumstances will compel farmers to study the natural characteristics of cattle, and make them better acquainted than they have been, with the principles to be observed in the successful management of live stock.

The manner of rearing calves will, properly, vary in different districts. Where milk is of little value, it is common to allow cows to suckle their offspring for the first four or six months. Sometimes one cow is the foster mother of two calves. This is perhaps the best course under the the circumstances, but it would not be economical in other situations. We prefer rearing them *by hand*, as it is called, where it is an object to use milk for

other purposes, for the following reasons: 1. Food can be given with more exactness as to quantity. 2. In many instances it economises food. 3. It is generally less trouble. 4. It saves injury to cows' teats bags by the biting and butting of the calves. 5. The calves more readily learn to eat various kinds of food. 6. They are more tame and gentle as they grow up—if cows, they are less likely to be troublesome in milking; if oxen, more tractable and obedient. 7. From being early and thoroughly weaned from the cows, the calves can run with them, if necessary, through the season, and rarely occasion trouble by suckling.

The calf should be taken from the mother the day it is born, unless it is advisable to have it suck for the purpose of relieving the udder from inflammation. It should have new milk the first three weeks—six to eight quarts a day, according to size. It may then be fed for three weeks on a mixture of new milk and skimmed milk, three quarts each, daily. The skimmed milk must not be sour. To the milk may be added gruel made by boiling a pound of oil-cake in a gallon of water. The gruel should be given in small quantities at first, till the calves get accustomed to the taste. They will soon become fond of it, and will eat a pound of cake each, daily, prepared in gruel well mixed with the milk. Give the food in equal parts, at six o'clock in the morning and six in the evening. In cool weather it should be warmed to the temperature of milk just from the cow. After the calf is six weeks old, the new milk may be discontinued, substituting that which has been skimmed. The skimmed milk and gruel should be continued till the calf is about three months old, when it can live well on other food. For the last two or three weeks of the time, the gruel can be gradually increased, and the milk diminished. If oil-cake cannot readily be procured, oat-meal, or meal from oats and peas ground together, may be used for the gruel. This is better than meal from Indian corn—contains more of the elements of muscle, is easier of digestion, and less likely to produce scours.—*Boston Cultivator*.

What Should be the Objects Aimed at by Agricultural Societies.

We have received a printed copy of the able address of Mr. William Kelley, on retiring from the Presidency of the New-York State Agricultural Society—delivered at the Albany meeting, February 10, 1855. There are many valuable suggestions in this address. We give the following extract:

The diversified objects of these societies, seem not to be known nor appreciated as they should be. Many suppose their whole busi-

ness is to get up an attractive annual exhibition and distribute premiums to the best specimens in every department there shown, but this, though important, is but a means to an end.

I was struck lately in reading the charter of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, with the enumeration of the means it employs to advance the great object for which it was constituted—allow me to read them to you.

1. To embody such information contained in agricultural publications and in other scientific works, as have been proved by practical experience to be useful to the cultivators of the soil.

2. To correspond with Agricultural, Horticultural and other scientific societies, and to select from such correspondence all information which according to the opinion of the society, may be likely to lead to practical benefit in the cultivation of the soil.

3. To pay to the occupier of land or any other person, who shall undertake at the request of the society, to ascertain by any experiment how far such information leads to useful results in practice, a remuneration for any loss he may incur by so doing.

4. To encourage men of science in their attention to the improvement of agricultural implements, the construction of farm buildings and cottages, the application of chemistry to the general purpose of agriculture, the destruction of insects injurious to vegetation, and the eradication of weeds.

5. To promote the discovery of new varieties of grain, and other vegetables useful to man or for the food of domestic animals.

6. To collect information with regard to the management of woods, plantations and fences, and on every subject connected with rural improvement.

7. To make provision for the improvement of the education of those who depend upon the cultivation of the soil for their support.

8. To take measures for improving the veterinary art, as applied to cattle, sheep and pigs.

9. At the meetings of the society in the country, by the distribution of prizes, and by other means, to encourage the best modes of farm cultivation and the breed of live stock.

10. To promote the comfort and welfare of laborers, and to encourage the improved management of their cottages and gardens.

Breeds of Cattle.

At a late discussion on cattle, at Albany, B. P. Johnson, Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, is reported by the *Country Gentleman* to have said:

The West Highland is a small, black, shaggy animal, perfectly hardy, and runs out in the winter. The beef is of extra quality, su-

perior to any other in London market. A higher price per stone is paid for them than any other. In Norfolk they are the most prevalent, and are considered the most profitable breed of cattle. Mr. Colman speaks of them as of extra fine proportions, being a perfect parallelogram. A gentleman from Western Virginia, who thought that State had the best cattle in the world, and that he should find nothing in England to equal them, went with him (Mr. Johnson) to Smithfield market, and when he saw the black cattle from Scotland, he exclaimed in perfect astonishment, "I give it up. I have never seen anything equal to this." They would be admirably adapted to Vermont and other New England States, and to the northern counties of our own State. A few have been imported into Canada. The Short-horns stand pre-eminent for early maturity, and great aptness to fatten, with a fine mellow skin—which is absolutely necessary for fine fattening qualities. Will mature from six to nine months earlier than any other breed. Had known a herd of Short-horn grades of the same age as a herd of native cattle, fed under the same circumstances, bring \$15 a head more in New York market.

Herefords are a very superior breed, though not very extensively introduced here yet. Has visited the Hereford district of England, and never saw finer cattle. Feeders uniformly told him they could make more on them than on Short-horns. Not so the breeders, however.

Devons in quality of meat are next to the West Highland. For beef, milk and the yoke, they are, and always will be, a most popular breed. The celebrated red cattle of New England have been thought to be Devons. They are more like the Sussex, a little larger and coarser breed than the North Devon. They are a very valuable breed for milk, working oxen, &c., and there is no breed of cattle better for crossing with the Short-horn. It is to these breeds we must look for improvement. Breeders must aim at developing the parts of cattle which command the highest price.

CURE FOR GARGET.—Mr. Joseph Meriam, of Ohio, in an article communicated by him to the *Ohio Farmer* on this subject, says this disease may be cured thus: Take raw linseed oil and rub all over the cow's bag, which, if done on the first appearance, is all that is needed generally, but two or three applications always have cured the most stubborn cases, and is easily done." He says he has seen cows that no milk could be got from, cured in forty-eight hours, in summer, and they gave nearly as much milk as they did before they were sick. This is certainly easily tried, and no great harm can be done to the cow if it should not prove successful.

The Garden and Orchard.

Garden Seeds.

The following is an estimate of the quantity of different kinds of garden seeds required to produce a certain number of plants, or to plant a certain quantity of ground:

ASPARAGUS.—One ounce will produce about 1,000 plants, and requires a seed bed of about twelve square feet.

ASPARAGUS ROOTS.—1,000 roots will plant a bed four feet wide and from 200 to 250 feet long, according to the distance apart the plants are placed in the row.

BRASK.—ENGLISH DWARF.—One quart of seed will plant from 100 to 150 feet of row, according as the sorts are early or late.

BRASK.—FRENCH DWARF.—One quart will be sufficient for about 350 hills, and the same quantity will plant from 250 to 300 feet of row.

BRASK.—POLK.—One quart of Lima, White Dutch or Scarlet Runners, will plant about 100 hills; of the smaller sort, one quart will plant about 300 hills, or 250 feet of row.

BEETS.—When sown as gardeners generally sow it, requires at the rate of ten lbs to an acre; one ounce will suffice for about 150 feet of row.

BROCOLI.—One ounce will produce from 2,500 to 3,000 plants, and require a seed bed of about forty square feet.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.—The same as Broccoli.

CABBAGE.—Early sorts the same as Broccoli; the late and Savoy sorts will require a bed of about sixty square feet.

CARLIFFLOWER.—The same as the later sort of cabbage.

CARROT.—Three or four pounds are required to an acre, and one ounce will sow about 300 feet of row.

CHEERY.—One ounce of seed will produce about 7,000 or 8,000 plants, and require a seed bed of about eighty square feet.

CUCUMBER.—One ounce of seed will be required for about 150 hills.

CURLED CRESS.—One ounce of seed will sow a bed containing sixteen square feet.

EGG PLANTS.—One ounce, if properly managed in a seed bed, will produce from 2,500 to 3,500 plants.

KALE.—The same as Broccoli.

ENDIVE.—One ounce will produce about 3,000 plants, and requires a seed bed of about eighty square feet.

LEEK.—One ounce produces about 2,000 or 2,500 plants, and requires about 60 square feet of seed bed.

LETTUCE.—One ounce will require a seed bed of about 120 square feet, and will produce 6,000 or 7,000 plants.

MELON.—One ounce will be sufficient for about 120 hills.

NASTURTIUM.—One ounce will sow 25 feet of row.

ONION.—From four to five pounds are required for an acre, when raised for the bulbs; one ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

OKRA.—One ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

PARSLEY.—Six or seven pounds are required to the acre; one ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

PARSNIP.—From five to six pounds are generally sown per acre; an ounce will sow about 250 feet of row.

Peppers.—One ounce will produce about 2,000 or 2,500 plants.

Radish.—From twelve to fourteen pounds of the early spring sorts are required to the acre, if sown broadcast, but half that quantity is sufficient if sown in drill. Of the latter sorts five pounds to the acre, in drills, are sufficient. One ounce will sow about one hundred square feet.

Peas.—From one to two bushels are required to an acre; one quart of the smaller sorts will sow about 120 feet of row, and of the larger sorts one quart will sow about 200 feet of row.

Pumpkins.—One quart of the common field sorts will plant from 500 to 600 hills, and, of the finer garden sorts, one ounce will plant about fifty hills.

Salsify.—From five to six pounds are generally allowed to an acre. One ounce will sow about 150 feet of row.

Spinage.—Cultivated in drills, from seven to eight pounds to the acre are sufficient; if sown broadcast double that quantity. One ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

Squash.—One ounce will plant from fifty to eighty hills, according to the sorts and size.

Tomato.—One ounce will produce about 2,000 or 3,000 plants, and require a seed bed of about eighty square feet.

Turnip.—From one to two pounds are generally allowed to an acre; one ounce will sow 2,000 square feet.

Water Melon.—One ounce will plant from 40 to 50 hills.

Setting out Peach Trees.

It may be that some persons are going to set out peach trees, of valuable sorts, this spring. If so, perhaps the following description of a successful experiment in this work may be of use to them.

The land was a rich clay, and had been broken up the fall before, and back-furrowed, so that the trees might be planted on the highest ridge. The hoe was used, as soon as the plowing was done, to cover all the sods

that the plow had failed to turn under. Trenches were made to let off the water, and in this condition the land lay till spring. When the trees reached the place, (they were a choice lot from Ellwanger & Barry's nursery, Rochester,) the soil was so wet that it could not be touched for a number of days. The trees were put into a cellar, and their roots covered with damp saw-dust. The moment the soil could be moved with safety, the trees were taken out; the tap-root was cut off to about four inches long; the ends were cut smooth; and the top was trimmed so as to be no larger than the root was. The roots were immersed a little while in water, before planting. The places for the trees were then prepared, by simply smoothing the surface, so that they would stand evenly and firmly. They were then set out on the top of the ground, and dry earth was brought from the surface near by, to cover the roots. A little boy held the trees erect, while the operator packed the soft earth with his hands closely about all the roots. As the roots projected from the main stem, at different depths, great care was taken to pack the earth up to each root, from the underside, and to have each root in its natural position, so that when the whole work about the tree was done, not a single hollow place should remain unfilled. After this point—the most delicate of all—the whole was rounded up, throwing on soft dry earth, till the stem stood about an inch deeper in the ground than before transplanting. To finish all, the earth was then smoothed off evenly with a hoe, and a good mulching of compost, made of light-leached ashes, mixed in equal quantities, was spread around the tree. The ground was cultivated, by growing corn on it for the season. Every tree lived, and did well, though last year was, as all will remember, a year of terrible drouth.—*Ohio Farmer.*

From the Horticulturist..

Curculio Remedies.

If we look around at the various remedies that have from time to time been proposed for the Curculio, we will find that they are almost as numerous as those found in the pharmacopoeia of the quack medicine venders for the cure of consumption, or any other incurable disease. Such being the case, and a new one in the hands of a committee for investigation, which it is confidently expected will prove successful, it may perhaps be considered superfluous to add any more to the list; but as we are not to have the benefit of the new discovery the present season, and as it may prove, like most of the horticultural novelties that we have lately received, rather expensive for these "hard times," it may be well to examine the subject a little, and see if

anything can be done toward saving our crop for the time. However, I believe that all will concede that an effectual, inexpensive, and easily applied remedy for the attacks of this troublesome insect, is worth a handsome reward.

Premising thus far, I will mention a few instances, which may not be generally known, where the Curculio has been more or less successfully combatted. An acquaintance, an amateur horticulturist, who had planted his Plum trees in a yard by themselves, for the purpose of allowing the hogs and chickens to run at large among the trees, and not finding the plan quite satisfactory, covered the ground with fresh horse manure when the fruit was beginning to form; and the experiment was attended with success. This covering is now continued every season, and he informs me that he is rewarded with good crops for his trouble. I do not remember whether he told me to what depth he covered the ground. Perhaps six inches would be sufficient; a larger quantity might induce fermentation, and be injurious to the trees.

Visiting a friend in the interior of the State, I observed a Plum tree that stood alongside a privy, which was bearing a very large crop of fruit, while the other trees in the garden had little or nothing on them, all being claimed by the Curculio, with the exception named.

I have been told of others who have succeeded in saving their Plums, by hanging bottles of pyroligneous acid, creosote, chloride of lime, &c., in the trees. From this we are led to infer that strong, pungent odors are not agreeable to the apparently sensitive olfactories of the insect. The only difficulty that appears here, is that preparations of this character are very volatile in their nature, and soon become exhausted, and it is troublesome and expensive to renew them often. This objection, however, I think is obviated in the following plan, which proved eminently successful the past season, and which I would recommend a pretty extensive trial of, the present season. It is this: As soon as the fruit is as large as Peas, take a common paint brush, or any other brush, or a woolen rag, and some fish oil, and cover all of the principal branches and trunk of the tree, with the oil. It is the same that is in common use among curriers, harness-makers, &c. This application is cheap, and it only requires to be done in the season. I had the pleasure of examining several trees of the best leading varieties which had been served in this manner, the past season, and the result far exceeded my expectations; the trees had to be propped up to prevent their breaking down with the weight of fruit. If the "little turk" had appropriated one-half of the crop to this own

ness, it would have been a positive benefit to what remained. But he is not satisfied with a share—he takes the whole, if he is not well watched.

Should this remedy prove as successful with all who may try it as it was in the case above noted, we need not despair of Plums—we shall have plenty of them. The discovery (if it is new) is not mine—others may have tried it; but as I have not seen it published, it is herewith presented to you.

[Covering with fresh manure (or old manure) strikes us most favorably as being likely to prevent the Curculio from escaping from his winter quarters in the ground.—Ed.]

From the Prairie Farmer.

The County Agricultural Societies.

There is no doubt that the County Agricultural Societies are one of the best of all the agencies now in use to deepen and extend an interest in improved agriculture. Our State Societies have their use in bringing out the best models of Stock, Implements and Products, and showing them to many more able and enterprising of the farmers from the different sections of the State, and thus enabling them to carry home a knowledge of all that is in progress for the public benefit, to be used as local capital in the several counties; but the State Societies do not and never can reach the bulk of the population. This with the exception of the immediate locality where a State Fair is held, can neither get abroad to attend it, nor could it be accommodated there were its attendance possible.

On the other hand, the County Fairs bring the matter of Exhibitions home to the people. They localize them in the separate counties and make it possible for every adult inhabitant of the State to see them. They thus make universal whatever is of benefit in the holding of public exhibitions of Farm Products, Stock, Machinery, Fruit, or the results of Domestic Industry.

Under this aspect of the case, the county Societies become of primary importance; and it is with great pleasure that we regard the fact, that our last Legislature donated the sum of \$50 to each County Society which would raise as much more to be distributed as premiums. The State of Iowa did better than this long ago, for it gave a sum equal, within limits, to that raised by the County Society for the same purpose, even though it should considerably exceed the amount of fifty dollars.

How, then, may our County Societies be best managed, so as to secure the objects for which they are instituted? This is a question of importance, on which we propose to offer a few suggestions.

What is the object of a County Agricultural Society? By asking the question, we may get at a rational idea as to whether we are effecting anything by our efforts, worthy of the labor and expense we are bestowing. We apprehended it to be, in short, to aid to educate the country in agricultural matters.—If a Society is good for anything, it excites an interest, greater or less, in the branches of pursuit with which it deals, through the region where it is organized. Now, people acquire new ideas on any subject in which they feel an interest, because they steadily look at it, and think about it. The aim of the Society is to call the people of all classes together, and to hold them there for a little time, so as to inspire them with the subject, and thus to give them new ideas in regard to it, and to stimulate them to further thought and study.

The question is, how can this best be done? It is easy to answer, that it is best done by that which will make the best and most thorough impression. In order to this, the chief and almost only effectual agency which the Society can employ, is, an exhibition; and this is the thing attempted by most of the leading Societies in existence. But these are conducted in different cases in a very different manner, and we apprehend with considerably different results.

This is what we have to say about it; that if an exhibition is worth the while at all, it is worth the while to make a *good show* of it. A half or a partial show may be better than nothing; but the better it is done, the better it will ordinarily answer its end. A few animals driven in and turned into a ten acre lot somewhere, and a few more got into another field somewhere else—a few sheep in the fence corner, and a hog in a wagon in one place, and a hen or two in a box in another, shut up that they cannot be seen—while a few women collect a cheese and a tub of butter, and a few quilts in some room a mile off—all these things so distributed, may be called a "Cattle Show," or a "Fair," or an "Exhibition;" but anybody can see, that, however good the articles and animals may be, it is the greater part of a failure, when its aim and intent are considered. It lacks that unity as a Show which gives it interest.

Let all officers and executive committees of Agricultural Societies understand, that *arrangement* is every thing in an Exhibition. A good arrangement of common or indifferent articles will make a better impression than a multitude of the best thrown helter-skelter about. The show, then, should be as compact as possible. Animals, Implements, Products, Fruits, and Flowers, should all be brought into proximity to each other, so that all the visitors may easily move about and see

the whole, fatiguing or inconvenient travel. If one part then happens to be a little weak, another which is better will relieve it, and the visitor will go away with a good impression of the whole.

And here let us observe, that to distribute and get premiums is not the chief end and aim of such Exhibitions; though some are always thinking it to be so. These are but incident or subsidiary. The great multitude who come, do so to see, and can take no premiums, for they have nothing but themselves to exhibit. But these lookers on are the very ones to be profited. They go home and talk the matter over, and set to work on the ideas they have acquired.

We have been present at a County Show where the animals were distributed about in different fields, almost inaccessible to the visitors, involving an amount of labor in seeing them sufficient to prostrate a healthy man in a hot day; while the Implements, Fruits, and Domestic Articles, were a mile or more distant. The effect of such a Fair is pretty much lost, so far as the exhibition is concerned and even the competitors will soon fail to be interested, and the whole go by the board.

The right way to go about it, is, to buy, or lease for a term of years, a tract of land sufficient and suitable for exhibitions, central and convenient of access; and to proceed and fit it up for the purpose of holding Exhibitions upon it. We rejoice to see that many of our County Societies are now doing this very thing. Without it, except in peculiar circumstances, few Societies will long continue to hold Exhibitions. Having procured the land, the first thing is, to surround it with a high, tight board fence; and then put up a building or two for the deposit of perishable or easily damaged articles. These buildings at first can be rough, cheap structures. At the Fair, let everything on the ground be brought within this enclosure, and every visitor pay a small entrance fee. The thing is now on a foundation. A "Show" is easily arranged, which everybody will esteem worth the seeing. The Society may get them a purse, for they will have money; for it is a fact that people will most readily pay for seeing such an Exhibition, and go away better satisfied than if they had seen it for nothing.

Again, a good many of our Exhibitions are got up as mere experiments, and the idea taints them all the way. The officers are afraid to do anything for fear they will not be sustained, and people look on and are afraid to take hold because they see that all is flimsy, and they are uncertain whether it will go or stop. It is best, as a general thing, to do it thoroughly. This inspires confidence and commands success. Men will jump into a boat which

they are sure will float; but even the rats will desert a sinking ship. It will cost more labor, often, more money in the first place, to do the thorough thing; but what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well, and County or other Societies which are most thoroughly managed, are most successful.

A STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The Legislature of Michigan, during its recent session, passed an act which makes provision for the organization of an agricultural college, to be located within ten miles of the capital of the State. The act provides for the purchase of a tract of land not less than 500 nor to exceed 1,000 acres, that the money arising from the sale of twenty-two sections of Salt Spring lands shall be appropriated for the purchase of the land and the erection of the buildings and all other necessary expenses for the successful establishment of the college. The objects of the school shall be to improve and teach the science and practice of agriculture. The branches to be taught are to include natural philosophy, chemistry, botany, animal and vegetable physiology, geology, mineralogy, meteorology, veterinary art, mensuration, leveling, political economy, book-keeping, and the mechanic arts connected with agriculture. The tuition is to be forever free to pupils within the State.

From the beginning of April to the end of October all the pupils are to be required to devote not less than three or more than four hours to manual labor.

The science of agriculture is the most important of any that has ever engaged the attention of man and yet it is more neglected than any other.

The Dorkings the Best.

I have had some experience the last few years in raising poultry, and consequently I have been much interested in the articles upon that subject contained in the "Country Gentleman." I have almost all of the popular varieties but I think that they will have to yield, when taken upon the ground of good qualities, to the Dorkings, which are far superior to any others for the table, good layers, and excellent mothers.

My object in speaking of their comparative merit, was to bring to notice the conduct of a cock, one year old, of the last named variety, that reared as fine a brood of Shanghaies as I have had this season. He took them from the mother when they were three weeks old, and watched them with the greatest of care, clocking for them, brooding them, and indeed acting "very like a hen," until they were three months old. It would be a matter of some interest to me to know if it is usual for this trait to be exhibited by this variety.

Country Gentleman.

Guano for Garden Manure.

The editor of the Southern Farmer says he has been in the habit of using guano very freely for garden vegetables, for years; and he gives the following directions for its use.

Isian Potatoes.—The land being previously well prepared, and laid off in furrows three feet apart—which should be opened by passing a one-horse plow both ways—the guano should then be stowed carefully in the furrows, at the rate of 3-4 of a pound to 10 yards. Until the hand of the sower becomes experienced, in this and in all other cases, it will be proper and necessary to use the scales. Following the sower, a man should pass along with a hoe, drawing a little earth from the sides of the furrows, enough to cover the guano two inches deep. The potatoes are then to be planted, and ridged over with a plow, as usual: after which the common mode of cultivation may be pursued. At the rate above indicated it will require about 350 lbs. of guano to the acre, which not only costs less than manure bought from the stables, but the transportation and expense of application are inconsiderable items.

Cannons.—For all the plants of this tribe, including broccoli, spring greens, radishes, &c., we consider guano equal to any other manure. But it must not be used sparingly. For Cabbages we lay off the ground as we do for potatoes, with the rows six inches wider—say 3-2 feet,—and we increase the quantity of guano to 1 pound for 10 running yards. After it is stowed in the furrows, ridge over with the plow, as directed for potatoes, and smooth down the beds. The young plants grow off with astonishing luxuriance; and if the cultivation is good, and the season favorable, the crop will be in every way satisfactory. For Turnips the quantity of guano may be less than for potatoes; from one-half to five-eighths of a pound to 10 yards is sufficient. Too much will have a tendency to cause the leaves to fire or to rust—which is a fatal disease to the crop. A still better mode of applications for turnips is broadcast. After the ground has been well prepared, sow 350 lbs. to the acre, and plow it in about three inches deep. Then sow the seed in drills on the level surface, at such distances as may be deemed most suitable, and let the subsequent treatment be timely and careful.

The same mode should be adopted for Siberian Kale and other spring greens, whether the seed be sown in the fall or in the spring. For radishes, as they only occupy a small space, and it is necessary to force the growth as much as possible, a greater quantity of guano should be used, and it should be well spaded in the ground.

Guano is also the best manure we have ever tried for raising cabbage plants. Prepare the ground as for turnips or spring greens, and sow the seed in rows, barely wide enough apart to admit of culture with the hoe. Every gardener has experienced frequent disappointment in having a sufficient supply of cabbage plants, but none need apprehend a failure by pursuing this mode.

ONIONS (from sets) may be treated in precisely the same way, only that the quantity of guano should be increased to 450 or 500 lbs. to the acre. There is no better manure for this vegetable.

TOMATOES are equally benefited. When the plants are ready to be turned out from the pots, or transplanted from the hot beds, chop a table-spoonful in the bottom of the hill. The effect will speedily be seen in the growth of the plants, and the fruit will begin to ripen a week or ten days sooner. Another and no less advantageous mode of application, is by a weak solution poured on the ground around the plant, and prevented from running off by raising a rim of earth in the form of a basin.

PEAS.—The productiveness of garden peas is greatly increased by the use of guano. The most economical application is in the drill or furrow. We have not found the increased growth of the vines to be in proportion to the product, but it is still materially promoted. A moderate quantity of guano is sufficient—say three-fourths of a pound, or something less, to ten yards.

MELONS, (including the tribe cucurbitaceæ generally.) While we would not like to rely exclusively on guano for the production of these fruits, yet we have found the use of it in part to be of great advantage. Where the hill is designed to be made, remove the loose earth down to the subsoil, uncovering a space about 18 inches in diameter. Then sprinkle guano on the naked places at the rate of a pound to six or eight hills. Chop it in with the subsoil, and draw the earth back so as to form the hill; then work a little fine manure in the hill. The latter suffices to give the young plants a good start; the roots soon penetrate to the guano, and a vigorous growth always ensues. We have tried guano at various depths. If too near the surface, the vines will spread out luxuriantly, but they are liable to burn, from the caustic effects of the manure. If placed too deep, the roots are some time in reaching it, and the fruit will be later in coming to maturity. For these reasons we prefer the use of mild putrescent manure near the surface, and the guano at a greater depth. These remarks are intended to apply to water melons, citron and other cantelope melons, cymlins, squashes, pumpkins and cu-

cumbers. The cucumber, however, from the tendency of the foliage to rust, should be supplied with guano in less quantities than the others—indeed it would be best, in the majority of season, to dispense with it entirely, and rely upon something else. We have found pondrette to be an admirable manure for all these vines, at the rate of about a pint to the hill, thoroughly incorporated with soil.

How to enrich a Garden.

A few years ago I had occasion to occupy a new garden. It had been worn by continual cropping without manuring, till it would not produce half a crop of any thing. I had no manure to put upon it. I could have bought open barn-yard manures, that had been washed and bleached through the year till most of the salts and all the urine was gone; but I thought it would not pay well. Nor could I any better afford to cultivate a garden to the halves. There was a half acre in the garden. I planted about one-third of it to white sugar beet. The remainder to corn, potatoes, beans, squashes, melons, cabbages, tomatoes, onions, &c. &c. There was one thing that I could do. I had a family of five, three adults and two children, one an infant. I placed a half hogshead, convenient for receiving the dirty slops of the family, including the urine of the chambers. This was filled about once a day through the week and two or three times on Mondays. My method of applying it was this: at evening I began at one end of the garden, and with a pail and dipper, I threw it upon the hills and beds of every thing I planted, till the tub was emptied. The second evening, I began where I left off the first, and continued on till the tub was again emptied. So I continued till I had gone over the whole garden. I continued to repeat the same process through the entire season, or until the garden had become so matured as to need no more food. The first time going through the garden, as the seeds were not up, I used a large watering pot, with a coarse nose. The second time through, I used the pail and dipper, and applied the liquid around the young plant. As the plants became large and nearly covered the ground, I applied the liquor to the ground wherever it was naked.

And now for the result. I had a neighbor, Dr. C., a competitor in the gardening line, that summer. His garden joined mine, the same size and the same quality of soil. He had plenty of open barn-yard manure and plenty of time to work his garden. He often boasted of having had the best garden in town, and thought he should have the best, notwithstanding mine. But no sooner were the gardens both well up, than the Dr. began to show signs of suspicion that he should be beat.

About the first of July he came into my garden and said, "I have come to inquire into the secret of your power over the vegetable kingdom. The rapid growth of your garden is a mystery to me. Your garden was plowed once, mine twice, and dragged well. Yours was ran down and had no manure, mine was in better order, and besides, had plenty of manure. Mine also has had a little better attention than yours, and now the first of July, yours is certainly thirty if not fifty per cent. ahead of mine. Tell me what you have done to it!" "Well, Doctor, come with me into my wood-house," said I. "There that tub, with the help of my good wife, contains all the secret there is about it. I have been feeding my garden just as you do your pigs." "Well now I see what you have been doing all summer. I supposed you were watering your garden all summer, and I wondered why you should be doing that when there was plenty of rain. Now I see the mystery."

That garden, Messrs. Editors, had the reputation of being the most thrifty and the most productive of any garden in the country. That was my first experiment with the waste water of the family. And as that was applied to a half acre of worn-out land for only a part of four months in the year, I came to the conclusion that had the whole been judiciously applied one entire year, it would have been amply sufficient to keep, in a high productive order, two acres. But in this estimate, I have not included the excrement from the privy. My opinion was then formed, and has been confirmed by later experiments, that the manure from the family would be amply sufficient to enrich as many acres for all the purposes of agriculture, as there are members in the family, and this, too, exclusive of absorbents to be used. But, by the judicious use of absorbents, the amount could be easily doubled or quadrupled even. And this would be the true way of saving and using the liquid. With the expense of one-half ton of guano, in permanent fixings, any farmer could make from his house one ton a year through several generations. It will certainly pay.—*Country Gentleman.*

PEACH TREES AND TANSY.—A writer in the N. Y. Times recommends the sowing of Tansy about the roots of peach trees as a means of preserving them. He says that he once knew a large peach tree which was more than forty years old, while several generations of similar trees in the same soil, had passed away. This led to examination, and a bed of tansy was discovered about the trunk. It was naturally inferred that the preservation of this tree to such a green old age, was attributed to the presence of this plant. It was decided to try

experiments on others, and accordingly a few of the roots were placed about each of the other trees on the premises, some of which gave signs of decay. Not only has it preserved for several years sound trees, but renovated those that were unsound. The odor of the plant, he says, doubtless protects this kind of tree against insects, and it might have the same effect upon others, as the plum, apple and pear, as well as the elm, sycamore and other ornamental trees.

Corn Fodder.

The experience of the past winter, as well as that of 1852, we should think would satisfy every farmer of the correctness of our remarks, heretofore, in relation to the cultivation of corn as a fodder. Cattle, from the Reserve, have not only been sent to the South part of this State, but even to Wisconsin, to be wintered; and thousands upon thousands of dollars been paid out, that a little foresight might have saved at home.

Many of our meadows have been grazed and mowed until nearly exhausted, and the addition of a drought completes the ruin, and starvation, or removal to a foreign region follows. Many farmers, for want of feed, have lost their choicest stock of cattle and sheep; and indeed in some localities, nearly whole flocks of sheep have perished.

Food, as we have heretofore stated, is the fuel that keeps up the internal heat of the body. If that is wanting, an animal dies with half the cold that it would if well fed. When, like the past winter, protracted, intense cold, is accompanied by a scarcity of food, death must necessarily follow.

An acre of corn well drilled in, will produce from ten to twelve tons of corn fodder, equally as good as hay for any cattle, and for milch cows far better.

Wheat drills could easily be changed so as to drill corn—the land is left light, and smooth—the seed neatly sowed, and buried, the crop out in the fall when labor is plenty, and other work not as pressing, or as high as in haying, and, by this rotation, the alkalies that are required for grass, are allowed time to replenish; and what is of vast importance, the cattle can be kept at home, and the manure saved on the land.

The fodder can be cut, and put up in shocks in the field, and stand, like other corn stalks, till needed to be fed out. There is no danger of moulding, if put up a little green, as a free circulation of air is allowed while standing in shocks.

An acre of land, so cultivated, would have produced fodder enough to have saved many a farmer ten times the expense and labor the past winter. Who will try it, and give us the result?

CALOMEL FOR THE PIP.—I had some Dorkings cockerels, and hoping to turn them to some account, I was very sorry to find the pip manifested among them in the most unmistakable manner; and finding my book learning as above grievously at fault, I had no help, as the case was pressing, but prescribe and administer with my Sunday clothes on that very day, for I feared it would be his last. Mercury, that mighty agent in loosening a cough, and in killing worms, men, and trees, occurred to me as the likeliest agent to loosen these lodgers in the trachea of the bird; and as the case was desperate, the remedy must needs be so too, and immediate. Accordingly, I got a piece of boiled potato, and used that as the medium to convey the mercury into the craw of the bird, in such pellets as the bird could readily swallow; into these pellets three grains of grey powder and five grains of rhubarb were placed, and thus administered to the patient, with a little cold water to wet his whistle and swirl down the medicine; the result was a perfect cure, and the bird is now in high feather. Here, then, is a cheap remedy for the pip, whose action is immediate; the quantity given, and the manner of applying the remedy simple and easy. For younger birds a smaller dose might be sufficient; these birds were half grown and nearly three months old.—*Farmer's Herald.*

The Crops.

We have before us numerous extracts from papers in every part of the country with regard to the growing crops. They are very encouraging, and give promise of a "good time coming." In our own county and throughout South-East Missouri, we are informed that the fruit crop has thus far escaped injury from frost, and the prospect for an abundant yield is excellent. The wheat and oats crops also look well, and should the weather continue favorable an abundant harvest may be expected.—*Cape Girardeau Ea.*

CURE FOR GRAPE MILDEW.—Mr. J. Hayes gives through the English Gardener's Chronicle the following cure for the grape mildew:

Take half a pound of black soft soap, from three to four ounces of black sulphur, the same quantity of soft and quick lime, and add water sufficient to enable them to be worked with a paint brush. As soon as the vines are pruned, paint the wood well over with this mixture, rubbing it well into the rough parts with the brush. I have not seen the least symptoms of mildew since I have used it, either in the house or out of doors, although we had plenty of it before the application was tried. This, therefore, may be worth the notice of vine growers in foreign countries, the ingredients employed being cheap.

Cultivate the Society of Birds.

The song of the robin under our window, that hails the approach of the sun at earliest dawn, and watches his receding rays at faintest twilight, reminds us of a promise long since made, to speak a good word for birds. They are man's natural companions, the guardians of his fruits, the graceful denizens of his trees, the minstrel choir whose tuneful notes wake him from slumber and whose vesper songs soothe him to repose. What can be sweeter than that first trill of the redbreast at dawn? The first note is scarce audible, as if the poor bird were afraid of the lingering shadows, and were asking leave of his slumbering lord to sing. The dawn increases, and with it the boldness of his song. The sun himself at length comes forth like a bridegroom, and the robin pours forth his whole soul in tumultuous joy. We pity the poor souls that live in a wilderness of brick and mortar, and have no tree orchestra in the shadow of their dwellings on these bright May mornings.

But those who live in the country, often have no music in their souls, and have no eye to see what labor saving machines the birds are—saying nothing of their capacities as artists. So the sportsman is suffered to prow about the orchard and fruit-yard, and the red-breast, oriole, bluebird, sparrow and wren become food for powder. When the robin claims his tribute of currants and cherries for the insects he has devoured, he is mercilessly shot, as if he were a vagabond and a thief. Whether such a merciless, unmusical soul be "fit for treason, stratagems and spoils" or not, it is pretty certain that his trees will fall into that category, and will soon be despoiled of fruit and foliage.

A single bird's nest in your orchard is worth dollars. What a multitude of grubs and worms a single pair of robins and their young will destroy in a season! Watch their busy flight by day, and every visit to their birdlings bringing destruction to a number of grubs. It has been estimated by a cautious observer of the habits of birds, that a single pair of jays with their young will devour two hundred insects in a day. This, in a season of three months, amounts to twenty thousand. It has been estimated that a single purple martin will destroy nearly five thousand moths and butterflies in a week. The moth, that does so much mischief in our wardrobes, is a small insect that might escape the sight of most other birds. A little hive of swallows close by one's dwelling-house, would probably be an effectual exterminator of these insects, which would be seized and devoured before they entered our windows. If we take into account the innumerable caterpillars and grubs that would spring from the eggs of all these dif-

ferent insects, we can but regard the martin as one of the most serviceable of all creatures. The lively twittering of these birds is one of most agreeable accompaniments of the rural melodies of morn, and is associated with many delightful incidents in English poetry. Whoever has visited Burlington, Vt., has noticed in their fruit gardens a long, substantial pole, mounted with a martin-box. Their labors are highly appreciated by the fruit-growers there, and their example is worthy of imitation.

It is but little trouble to any one of common ingenuity to build a few bird-houses, and put them in various parts of the premises. Small boxes may be put in the cherry trees and upon the fence near the currants and raspberries, for the wren. They will almost certainly be occupied, and this little bird lives upon the insects that crawl upon the fences, and lurk in bark of trees, and in the crevices of buildings. On account of its fondness for spiders the wren has in some places received the appellation of spider-bird. The immense number of insects which he removes from our gardens and dwellings ought to endear him to every cultivator, even if he had nothing else to recommend him. He is the appropriate guardian of our small fruits, and no robin or fruit-eating bird will venture near the home of this pugnacious little bird. It is amusing to see the reckless desperation with which they will pitch into a bird many times their size, driving all before them.

Cultivate, then, the society of birds. The robin needs no box, but if you let him alone he will put up his dwelling in the apple tree, or in a corner of the fence, and be much obliged to you for the privilege of killing caterpillars for you all summer long. The boy that comes nigh with a gun, warn off from your premises; and if he does not heed the warning, put the law in force; and if there be no law, call in the aid of Judge Lynch. The birds must be saved if you would save your fruit. Your tenderness and care for the birds will not be without its moral impressions upon the hearts of your children. It will teach them many a humane lesson as they grow up, and save them from habits of cruelty, which often begin in destroying the eggs and young of birds. Smooth-barked trees, unscathed with the wounds of insects, and smooth-skinned fruits, will keep company with children of fair characters, unspotted with vice.—*American Horticulturist.*

Mr. Brooks of Princeton, at the last Legislative Agricultural Meeting in Boston, alluded to the practice of planting cabbages among Indian corn. He knew an instance where cabbages were planted in alternate rows with corn and the cabbages sold for \$150 per acre.

REQUISITES FOR A HERDSMAN.—Hugh T. Brooks, Esq., President of the Wyoming County Agricultural Society, thus humorously opened his address at its recent Annual meeting:

A venerable and respected citizen, I think it was *Mister Partington*, is said to have sent his smart boys to college and prepared them for the "learned profession;" but after mature deliberation, he declared the youngest fit for nothing but a farmer! At last the idea is getting about that the old gentleman made a mistake, and I now give it as my deliberate opinion that it requires more intellect and more learning to raise a calf, and do it right, than to fill a Professor's chair in your best college. The University man, like a city shop, deals in only one article—if he expounds Greek, he ignores conic sections; if he names the stars he isn't expected to know much about beans. A herdsman requires a wide range of knowledge. Historically, he should go back to the flood, and follow his animals down through successive generations, carefully noting their instincts, habits, and manner of living, and so avoid subjecting them to unnatural and artificial modes of life.

Physiologically, he should be familiar with their structure, from the frame of bones, to the small ligaments and minute blood vessels—well versed in the office and use of each. He can then judge what particular form and characteristics are required for particular emergencies and can tell in advance whether an animal will be best suited to the yoke, the slaughter house, or the dairy, and is prepared to give to it the peculiar discipline and development suited to its destiny. He should be a Doctor—not a quack—skilled in all antidotes, and not afraid to use them;—a botanist, zealous as Audubon and more learned than Linnaeus;—a geologist and a chemist, that he may know what circumstances favor the growth and perfection of plants, what varieties are best adapted to his purpose.

Without enumerating all the sciences which the itinerant singer said of his songs, are too tedious to mention, I will merely add that the science of breeding, with its crosses to perpetuate good qualities and extirpate bad ones, its nice adjustment of warmth, light, air, and exercise, to the creature's necessities, its skillful combination of food (more or less concentrated) to please the appetite and minister to specific wants, involves more difficult and weighty questions than those with which senators and judges usually have to do.

May I not ask, What in the catalogue of human knowledge can a practical man afford to do without; and "speaking of calves," demand who is equal to the task of rearing them?


OLIVE VERSUS LARD OIL.—At a late meeting of the Farmer's Club, connected with the American Institute, Prof. Mapes asserted that what "we received as pure olive oil in the market, is nothing more nor less than the surplus lard sent by our pork merchants to France, where it is transformed into the genuine article of sweet oil, and returned to be used at the tables of those very persons who exported it in the solid state." This is certainly refreshing information for the lovers of pure sweet table oil among us, and is no doubt perfectly true. We venture to say, that not one tenth of the oil sold for that of the olive, in our country, is any thing else than lard oil.

Any person can convert the common lard oil sold for burning in lamps, into as good sweet oil as that which is generally sold for olive oil, by the following process: Take say about a quart of the common oil, and place it in a clean tin pan, and set it on a stove; bring it up to about the heat of scalding water, and then add about one quarter of an oz. of sal soda, dissolved in half a teacupful of hot water. Stir this into the oil for about five minutes, then take off the vessel, and allow it to cool. When the sediment settles on the bottom of the vessel, the clear should be poured off into a clean bowl through a white cotton cloth, to strain it. The oil obtained by this treatment is sweet and pure, excellent for oiling fine machinery, and for making perfumed oil for the hair.—*Scientific American*.

CHOKED CATTLE AND WENS.—I read the following receipts in *The Cultivator*, some ten or twelve years since. I have several times tested them, and know that they can be relied on. I would suggest that you would do well to republish them:

TO RELIEVE CHOKED CATTLE.—Mix a spoonful of gun powder with enough of hog's lard to form a ball the size of a hen's egg—open the animal's mouth, and after pulling out the tongue lightly, chuck the ball of lard and powder into the throat, let go the tongue, and the work is done. I have tried this in two instances, and it produced immediate relief.

TO REMOVE WENS ON CATTLE.—Mix fine salt and tar, and rub the same on the wen. I have seen very bad ones cured in this way, in six weeks.—*The Cultivator*.

 A new material for building is attracting attention. It is a combination of one part lime and eleven parts sand, is made larger than a common brick; is hard and smooth, hollow and fully equal to sand-stone. The advantages of the invention are that it is cheaper than common brick, hardens in the atmosphere, and it is claimed, forms the inside wall without lath or plaster.

Cultivate the Society of Birds.

The song of the robin under our window, that hails the approach of the sun at earliest dawn, and watches his receding rays at faintest twilight, reminds us of a promise long since made, to speak a good word for birds. They are man's natural companions, the guardians of his fruits, the graceful denizens of his trees, the minstrel choir whose tuneful notes wake him from slumber and whose vesper songs soothe him to repose. What can be sweeter than that first trill of the redbreast at dawn? The first note is scarce audible, as if the poor bird were afraid of the lingering shadows, and were asking leave of his slumbering lord to sing. The dawn increases, and with it the boldness of his song. The sun himself at length comes forth like a bridegroom, and the robin pours forth his whole soul in tumultuous joy. We pity the poor souls that live in a wilderness of brick and mortar, and have no tree orchestra in the shadow of their dwellings on these bright May mornings.

But those who live in the country, often have no music in their souls, and have no eye to see what labor saving machines the birds are—saying nothing of their capacities as artists. So the sportsman is suffered to prowl about the orchard and fruit-yard, and the red-breast, oriole, bluebird, sparrow and wren become food for powder. When the robin claims his tribute of currants and cherries for the insects he has devoured, he is mercilessly shot, as if he were a vagabond and a thief. Whether such a merciless, unmusical soul be "fit for treason, stratagems and spoils" or not, it is pretty certain that his trees will fall into that category, and will soon be despoiled of fruit and foliage.

A single bird's nest in your orchard is worth dollars. What a multitude of grubs and worms a single pair of robins and their young will destroy in a season! Watch their busy flight by day, and every visit to their birdlings bringing destruction to a number of grubs. It has been estimated by a cautious observer of the habits of birds, that a single pair of jays with their young will devour two hundred insects in a day. This, in a season of three months, amounts to twenty thousand. It has been estimated that a single purple martin will destroy nearly five thousand moths and butterflies in a week. The moth, that does so much mischief in our wardrobes, is a small insect that might escape the sight of most other birds. A little hive of swallows close by one's dwelling-house, would probably be an effectual exterminator of these insects, which would be seized and devoured before they entered our windows. If we take into account the innumerable caterpillars and grubs that would spring from the eggs of all these dif-

ferent insects, we can but regard the martin as one of the most serviceable of all creatures. The lively twittering of these birds is one of most agreeable accompaniments of the rural melodies of morn, and is associated with many delightful incidents in English poetry. Whoever has visited Burlington, Vt., has noticed in their fruit gardens a long, substantial pole, mounted with a martin-box. Their labors are highly appreciated by the fruit-growers there, and their example is worthy of imitation.

It is but little trouble to any one of common ingenuity to build a few bird-houses, and put them in various parts of the premises. Small boxes may be put in the cherry trees and upon the fence near the currants and raspberries, for the wrens. They will almost certainly be occupied, and this little bird lives upon the insects that crawl upon the fences, and lurk in bark of trees, and in the crevices of buildings. On account of its fondness for spiders the wren has in some places received the appellation of spider-bird. The immense number of insects which he removes from our gardens and dwellings ought to endear him to every cultivator, even if he had nothing else to recommend him. He is the appropriate guardian of our small fruits, and no robin or fruit-eating bird will venture near the home of this pugnacious little bird. It is amusing to see the reckless desperation with which they will pitch into a bird many times their size, driving all before them.

Cultivate, then, the society of birds. The robin needs no box, but if you let him alone he will put up his dwelling in the apple tree, or in a corner of the fence, and be much obliged to you for the privilege of killing caterpillars for you all summer long. The boy that comes nigh with a gun, warn off from your premises; and if he does not heed the warning, put the law in force; and if there be no law, call in the aid of Judge Lynch. The birds must be saved if you would save your fruit. Your tenderness and care for the birds will not be without its moral impressions upon the hearts of your children. It will teach them many a humane lesson as they grow up, and save them from habits of cruelty, which often begin in destroying the eggs and young of birds. Smooth-barked trees, unscathed with the wounds of insects, and smooth-skinned fruits, will keep company with children of fair characters, unspotted with vice.—*American Horticulturist.*

Mr. Brooks of Princeton, at the last Legislative Agricultural Meeting in Boston, alluded to the practice of planting cabbages among Indian corn. He knew an instance where cabbages were planted in alternate rows with corn and the cabbages sold for \$150 per acre.

REQUISITES FOR A HERDSMAN.—Hugh T. Brooks, Esq., President of the Wyoming County Agricultural Society, thus humorously opened his address at its recent Annual meeting:

"A venerable and respected citizen, I think it was *Mister Partington*, is said to have sent his smart boys to college and prepared them for the 'learned profession;' but after mature deliberation, he declared the youngest fit for nothing but a farmer! At last the idea is getting about that the old gentleman made a mistake, and I now give it as my deliberate opinion that it requires more intellect and more learning to raise a calf, and do it right, than to fill a Professor's chair in your best college. The University man, like a city shop, deals in only one article—if he expounds Greek, he ignores conic sections; if he names the stars he isn't expected to know much about beans. A herdsman requires a wide range of knowledge. Historically, he should go back to the flood, and follow his animals down through successive generations, carefully noting their instincts, habits, and manner of living, and so avoid subjecting them to unnatural and artificial modes of life.

Physiologically, he should be familiar with their structure, from the frame of bones, to the small ligaments and minute blood vessels—well versed in the office and use of each. He can then judge what particular form and characteristics are required for particular emergencies and can tell in advance whether an animal will be best suited to the yoke, the slaughter house, or the dairy, and is prepared to give to it the peculiar discipline and development suited to its destiny. He should be a Doctor—not a quack—skilled in all antidotes, and not afraid to use them;—a botanist, zealous as Audubon and more learned than Linnaeus;—a geologist and a chemist, that he may know what circumstances favor the growth and perfection of plants, what varieties are best adapted to his purpose.

Without enumerating all the sciences which as the itinerant singer said of his songs, are too tedious to mention, I will merely add that the science of breeding, with its crosses to perpetuate good qualities and extirpate bad ones, its nice adjustment of warmth, light, air, and exercise, to the creature's necessities, its skillful combination of food (more or less concentrated) to please the appetite and minister to specific wants, involves more difficult and weighty questions than those with which senators and judges usually have to do.

May I not ask, What in the catalogue of human knowledge can a practical man afford to do without; and "speaking of calves," demand who is equal to the task of rearing them?

OLIVE VERSUS LARD OIL.—At a late meeting of the Farmer's Club, connected with the American Institute, Prof. Mapes asserted that what "we received as pure olive oil in the market, is nothing more nor less than the surplus lard sent by our pork merchants to France, where it is transformed into the genuine article of sweet oil, and returned to be used at the tables of those very persons who exported it in the solid state." This is certainly refreshing information for the lovers of pure sweet table oil among us, and is no doubt perfectly true. We venture to say, that not one tenth of the oil sold for that of the olive, in our country, is any thing else than lard oil.

Any person can convert the common lard oil sold for burning in lamps, into as good sweet oil as that which is generally sold for olive oil, by the following process: Take say about a quart of the common oil, and place it in a clean tin pan, and set it on a stove; bring it up to about the heat of scalding water, and then add about one quarter of an oz. of sal soda, dissolved in half a teacupful of hot water. Stir this into the oil for about five minutes, then take off the vessel, and allow it to cool. When the sediment settles on the bottom of the vessel, the clear should be poured off into a clean bowl through a white cotton cloth, to strain it. The oil obtained by this treatment is sweet and pure, excellent for oiling fine machinery, and for making perfumed oil for the hair.—*Scientific American.*

CHOKED CATTLE AND WENS.—I read the following receipts in *The Cultivator*, some ten or twelve years since. I have several times tested them, and know that they can be relied on. I would suggest that you would do well to republish them:

TO RELIEVE CHOKED CATTLE.—Mix a spoonful of gun powder with enough of hog's lard to form a ball the size of a hen's egg—open the animal's mouth, and after pulling out the tongue lightly, chuck the ball of lard and powder into the throat, let go the tongue, and the work is done. I have tried this in two instances, and it produced immediate relief.

TO REMOVE WENS ON CATTLE.—Mix fine salt and tar, and rub the same on the wen. I have seen very bad ones cured in this way, in six weeks.—*The Cultivator.*

 A new material for building is attracting attention. It is a combination of one part lime and eleven parts sand, is made larger than a common brick; is hard and smooth, hollow and fully equal to sand-stone. The advantages of the invention are that it is cheaper than common brick, hardens in the atmosphere, and it is claimed, forms the inside wall without lath or plaster.

Thoroughly Dried Potatoes will always Produce a Crop free from Rot.—A Professor in the Russian Agricultural Institute, Bollman by name, has published a very interesting pamphlet on the potato rot, and he announces to the world that mere drying, if conducted at a sufficiently high temperature, and continued long enough, is a complete antidote to the disease. In the spring of 1850, the Professor says he placed a lot in a very hot room, and at the end of three weeks they were dry enough to plant. The potatoes came up well, and produced as good a crop as that of the neighboring farmers, with the difference only, that they had no disease, and the crop was therefore, upon the whole, more abundant. Professor Bollman says that he regarded this as a mere accident; he however, again dried his seed potatoes in 1851, and again his crop was abundant and free from disease, while every where on the surrounding land they were much affected. This was too remarkable a circumstance not to excite attention, and in 1852 a third trial took place. All Mr. Bollman's stock of potatoes being exhausted, he was obliged to purchase his seed, which bore unmistakable marks of having formed part of a crop that had been severely diseased, some, in fact, were quite rotten. After keeping them for about a month in a hot room, as before, he cut the largest potatoes into quarters, and the smaller into halves, and left them to dry for another week. Accidentally the drying was carried so far that apprehensions were entertained of a very bad crop, if any. Contrary to expectation, however, the sets pushed promptly, and grew so fast that excellent young potatoes were dug three weeks earlier than usual. Eventually nine times the quantity planted were produced, and although the neighboring fields were attacked, no trace of the disease could be found on either the herbage or the potatoes themselves. The temperature required to produce the desired result is not very clearly made out. Mr. Bollman's room, in which his first potatoes were dried, was heated to about 72 degrees and much higher. By way of experiment he placed others in the chamber of the stove itself, where the thermometer stood at 136 degrees and more. He also ascertained that the vitality of a potato is not affected even if the rind is charred.—*Boston Chron.*

Hill Sides

There are very few farms of any extent, on which there are not "slopes," which defy the skill of the cultivator, and which remain unswarded in despite of utmost exertions to stock them with grass. This is owing to the tendency of such places to "wash." All the fine particles of the soil being borne down by the water, the surface soil is generally found on

or gravel without sufficient cohesibility to furnish a medium for the roots of the plants, which perish for want of moisture. The only corrective, however, which is required in such cases, is clay, which is proved by the following experiment: On the south side of my farm there is a sand ridge of some elevation, extending along the line some thirty or thirty-five rods. I had frequently plowed, worked, and liberally manured this ridge, but without effecting my object; the surface of the slope, from the top to the base of it remained nearly destitute of verdure, and was plowed into unseemly gutters by the spring and autumnal rains. As a last resort I commenced carting on fine clay, which I obtained on the opposite or north side of my premises, and which was conveyed to the slope without the labor of ascending it. Nearly two hundred loads were dumped down on the verge of the descent, and was then evenly spread and plowed in with a light furrow. After this, and before harrowing, fifty loads more of clay, and twenty of old compost, were spread on and the whole harrowed in with a light seed harrow. Grass seed—timothy and clover—was then sowed, and covered with a light brush, and the work finished off with a liberal dressing of plaster. This operation was performed in August. The seed came up vigorously, and by the time cold weather set in, the surface presented a most beautiful appearance, being covered with a dense and heavy herbage of a most beautiful green, and sufficiently strong to arrest the action of water upon the soil. Since that, the "sand slope" has never washed, and is now one of the most productive of my farm. Plaster and superphosphate of lime, are the only manures that have been used since laying it down. This is the only way in which such lands can be successfully managed; clay is the only alterant that will suffice.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Fowl Disease.

The people of this, as well as of other neighborhoods, are complaining of a disease among their chickens, which causes many of them to die. When the malady first appears, the chickens refuse to eat, and stand about on the sunny side of the buildings; in a short time their heads turn to a bluish color, their feathers become ruffled, and their joints stiff, so that they can scarcely move about. Sometimes this lasts two or three days before they die, and at other times they drop off in a few hours. Some go to their roosts at night, apparently as well as at any time, and will be found in the morning lying lifeless on the ground. This mortality has come to be a serious evil, as some farmers have lost nearly half their stock of fowls; and what produces it we have not been able to find out.

The Family Circle.

Conducted by
Mrs. MARY ABBOTT.

Three Words.

These three words—Home, Happiness and Heaven—are said to be the sweetest words that are to be found. In our opinion they are the most important. A good home is a foretaste of Heaven, and a place to prepare for an eternal home, and without a pleasant home no one can be happy. *Home!* What is there in all this changing world that can afford us any real satisfaction disconnected with a happy home. If you would wish to be happy in travelling you must have a home, or the interest is lost. A homeless traveller feels that he is a desolate wanderer, and he cannot be happy. If you leave a pleasant home to go abroad every thing you see fills you with interest, and the dear ones at home come to your mind as you think how they would enjoy this or that if they were with you; and although you are a traveller, and among strangers, you can think of your own happy home, and of those loved ones that are anxiously awaiting your return, and then you can understand the full meaning of these words,

"There's no place like home."

So it is with every thing with which we are concerned; home must be in some way connected with it, and it is this which gives it its importance.

Happiness is that for which every one is seeking. All that can be found of it on earth must be in connexion with home and family. There may be what some call pleasure in the exciting dance, or momentary enjoyment in many kinds of dissipation, but there can be no real happiness. Happiness is found in the bosom of a loving family; in the unselfish discharge of every duty; in trying to remove the afflictions of the afflicted, and in all the fond associations that cluster around

"Home, sweet Home."

Heaven is the perpetuation of a pious

earthly home. It is our *Father's House*. Our Savior said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." Heaven will contain many loved ones, and our happiness will be unspeakable, by never shedding a parting tear; and death, that makes desolate our earthly home, can never enter our heavenly home. All that mars the happiness of our present state will be done away with in heaven. There all tears will be wiped away, and there will be no more sickness or pain; neither will there be any more sorrow, for all that disturbed our earthly homes can never enter there.

Let us all live with a conscience void of offence toward God, and strive to make home a foretaste of heaven, and then when our earthly tabernacle is dissolved, we shall have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. There we shall forever enjoy—Home, Happiness and Heaven.

Earthen Vessels.

We have received a letter wherein the writer considers it dangerous to praise the "Family Circle" too much—"considering we are all earthen vessels." Now we wish to say to such that they need not fear.—We conduct the Family Circle with no other motive than that we may be the humble means of doing some little good. We do not write for *praise* or *money*. We consider our department a free will offering, never thinking at all that it would be the means of getting us one dollar. We think the Valley Farmer itself fully worth the small sum received for it. We give in our own humble efforts, knowing that the Farmer would visit some thousands of families, and we thought such a department would be beneficial to them, determining that it should do no harm. We never thought while writing an article that it would draw forth a word of approbation; such a thought never entered our mind.—We had no thoughts of praise or blame, but we have received many kind letters of encouragement that our efforts are appreciated. With such we feel a sympathy,

and thank them for their kind approbation, but it does not, nor never can elate us.— We are not a “Fanny Fern,” nor a “Mrs. Stowe,” nor a “Womans’ Rights,” but a plain domestic mother, too much taken up with our own family to be influenced by praise or blame. We like the approbation of our friends, and hope our department will interest and benefit them. Our friends need not fear that a word of approval will injure our “earthen vessel,” for we do not seek for praise.

OUR PASTOR.

“How blest the righteous when he dies.”

A friend of our early youth has fallen! Mr. Merrill, Minister of the Middlebury Congregational Church was our pastor when we were a child, and the first minister that we took any interest in hearing. He was truly the child’s minister, and he took delight in leading the lambs to the fold, and pointing them to the true Shepherd and only Savior, who took the little ones in his arms and said, “Of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Our dear pastor loved the children and youth, and by his kind, persuasive manner made “wisdom’s ways” indeed “pleasant” to them. He was the means of leading hundreds of children and youth to the “Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” Many have gone before him as seals of his ministry, who we doubt not will be the first to welcome him to the realms of glory. He used to invite the children to his house every Friday, that he might converse with them apart from the older ones. We well remember the last time that we visited his house on such an occasion, after we thought we had chosen the “good part.” We think we shall never forget the words that were so “fitly spoken” to us as we stood in the door-way. Taking us kindly by the hand as a kind father would take the hand of his own little girl, he said to us, “Mary, remember Lot’s wife, and that the Judge of all the earth will do right.” They have been to us as “apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Whenever we have been in affliction and sorrow these blessed words have

come to our mind, “*The Judge of all the earth will do right.*” and they have been as balm to our wounded spirits. He was the means of causing us to “Remember” our “Creator in the days of” our “youth,” and we stood up with about thirty-five, most of whom were as young as we were, to join ourselves to the people of God, and to confess Christ before men. We shall never forget that time. Although most of them were young, yet there was one who stood next to us before the altar who was in the decline of life. Her memory we shall ever cherish with respect. She was the mother of the late lamented Capt. Wm. Jewett. She also has gone to her reward, and will be one of the happy throng that will meet him with songs of rejoicing.

Mr. Merrill was a man of unbounded benevolence. He was first in every good cause, and did much for Middlebury College in its weakness and infancy, and was the means of converting many of its young men to God, who have gone out to exert their influence for good over all our own land, and many are now on missionary grounds. He did much for the cause of Temperance in Middlebury, and throughout the State. He was kind and affectionate in his family, generous and sympathizing to the people of his Church, pleasant and affable to all with whom he had intercourse, patient and forbearing to the wayward and erring. He was beloved by all who knew him best. He was pastor over that Church for more than thirty years, and we have heard him say, when we were a little girl that he had baptised in infancy and married more than two thirds of the congregation that were there at that time. He was instant in season and out of season, giving a portion to all. *He preached Christ.* But now he has finished his course, received his crown, has entered into his rest, and his works do follow him.

“He gently lies, and sweetly sleeps
Low in the ground.”
May his mantle fall upon us, may we follow him as he followed Christ, and may we all meet together in those mansions that Christ has prepared for those who love him.

Sparing Mercy.

Last Sunday night, just as we were going out to church, we were taken with a violent palpitation of the heart, and were obliged to turn back just in season to see two of our little ones in flames! A Gas lamp had exploded in the hand of a little daughter. We were just in time to snatch one and our husband the other, smothering the flames, and thus by the sparing Mercy of God, were our children saved. We were thankful for once for our suffering, for in it we can see a particular Providence of God.

A PRESENT.

We have received a present of a jar of fine preserved fruit, from a friend and subscriber, Mrs. Dr. Blue, of Brunswick, Mo., for which we return our sincere thanks.—We believe Mrs. B. understands domestic economy in all its branches, and in preserving fruit, making pickles, and preparing sweet meats, we think she excels. We spent an afternoon and took tea at the house of Dr. Blue. We enjoyed our visit greatly, as the time was spent in intelligent and profitable conversation with that pleasant and agreeable family. We think of that time with pleasure.

Our present is a jar of preserved gooseberries, which we think very nice, and we hope our friend will favor us with the receipt for preserving them. If she does we will publish it for the benefit of our other friends.

Parental Firmness

By this is meant, that disposition, which though at the greatest distance from all that is rigid, stern and cruel, can master its own feelings; amid the strongest appeals to the tender emotions of mind, can inflexibly maintain its purpose and in the way of denying improper requests, or administering correction can inflict pain on the object of its affection, whenever duty requires such an exercise of beneficial severity. For want of this disposition, of this fine and noble quality, how many have ruined their children forever by indulgence. Those parents are sincerely to be pitied, who have not resolution and firmness enough to deny the requests of their children when they know them to be improper. Nor are they less object of pity, who from ill-

judged tenderness, withhold correction when it is known to be necessary. The children of such parents are object of still greater commiseration. The consequences must be fatal as to the formation of a manly, virtuous character. I have heard a parent say—"I love my children so well that I cannot punish them when they do wrong." Strange love, indeed!—Had your child fractured a limb, what kind of affection would you express by saying that you love your child so much that cannot consent to allow the surgeon to operate upon it? Hence your child must suffer the consequences of a deformed limb all the rest of his life. And yet, I appeal to your reason if this course would not be more excusable than to let their temper and passions become perverse, because you have not steadiness and energy enough to exercise judicious restraint, or inflict salutary punishment.—*Hall on Education.*

NE MOTHER.—"She has no mother!" What a volume of sorrowful truth is comprised in that single utterance—no mother! Deal gently with the child. Let not the cup of her sorrows be overflowed by the harshness of your bearing, or your unsympathizing coldness.—Is she heedless of her doings?—forgetful of duty? Is she careless of her movements?—Remember, oh remember, 'she has no mother!'

"His mother made him a little coat."

Mother an unclothed soul
Is given to thy arms,
See that the garment which you make
Is wrought with faithful care

Make it a little coat,
Without a seam of sin;
The outward part humility,
And charity within.

Add to it sleeves of love,
Embracing all mankind;
The buttons chosen of burnished truth,
The emblem of the mind.

Firmness a collar make,
All evil to resist,
Broad and expansive on the breast,
The needy to assist.

Engirdle it around
With conscientiousness,
That every word may wisdom prove,
And every action bless.

Make it of richest dye,
Fit for the marriage feast;
Then at the supper of the Lamb
He'll be a welcome guest.

No varying fashion's change
Its fitness can impair,
No moth its texture can destroy,
Or mar its beauty rare.

'Twill be a fitting garb
To wear amidst toils of earth;
'Twill be a bright and glorious robe,
At its immortal birth.

Then, mother, ceaseless work,
This garment to prepare,
In hope you may the heavenly bliss
Of a blest servant share.

The Beginning and the End.

E was the child of pious parents, prospering in the world, with an abundance of good things for all about them. He was brought up in the lap of indulgence, humored in every whim, and before he had left the leading strings, gave evidence that already he was a spoiled child.

At six years old he was a trouble to the household; wayward, disrespectful to his parents, passionate and overbearing to his young companions, and exacting towards all. At fifteen he was beyond the reach of paternal restraints. His will was law to the family. His whims must be indulged at whatever price. His teachers finding him unmanageable, he had gone the rounds of schools. He was out regularly every night, sometimes to late hours, frequently at the theatre, and always in bad company. He had gained the reputation of a wild, ill-behaved lad. His parents now discovered that he was unpromising; but having failed to restrain and correct him at the proper period, he was beyond their control.

H reached his eighteenth year. He had, in the mean time, been sent away to College. Idle habits and depraved tastes unfitted him for study. He was disciplined before many months had passed, and his father was written to about him. Before his second term had closed he was dismissed, and had returned to his home, a grief to his family. Three years more passed, and when the wayward youth emerged from his minority he was a sad spectacle to look upon. His eyes blood-shot; his face flushed and bloated; his air that of an inebriate; his temper irascible in the last degree. For days in succession he was absent from home, no one knew where, and when he returned it was with unmistakable marks of debauchery. A father's earnest remonstrances, and a mother's supplications and tears were alike unheeded.

At twenty-three, the work of destruction had been completed. **H** had been often in the hands of the police; his name had been reported for various misdemeanors in the morning papers; he reeled in the streets in open day; and was picked up at night in the gutter, and carried home beastly drunk. Fearful attacks of delirium tremens seemed to possess him with legions of devils, and made his very presence a terror. Before his twenty-fifth year was completed **H** was dead. His wretched career hastened him to a premature grave. He was seized with delirium tremens, and lay for days in a house of profligacy before his parents knew it. When, at length, they repaired to him, they were but in time to find him in the last phrenesies of his terrible malady. As if chased by

a band of demons, he shrunk from the approach of those whose hearts yearned over him; and with eyes glaring like orbs of fire, and fierce curses on his lips, in the midst of perdition-like horrors, the vital thread was snapped, and his wretched soul hurried out of life. The agony, the woe that overwhelmed the stricken parents, as they looked upon the remains of their once darling boy, what pen can describe? During years that passed after he was laid in his grave, they were broken-hearted. The mother wore the marks of premature old age; the father's head was early bleached by the sorrows of his heart.

Who was guilty of the ruin of this unhappy youth? Naturally strong passions and bad company were means towards the end; but the chief authors of his wretched career were those whose hearts were crushed because of him. They could do him nothing; they humored his caprices; they had not the resolution to resist him, nor correct him; passion was allowed to run riot; and when the tragic, heart-rending end came, it was but the fair and natural consequence from such a beginning. The child was "father of the man;" to the failure of proper parental restraint and culture in childhood, must be attributed his subsequent career of wretchedness and sin. The foolish indulgence of a falsely kind father and mother, was his ruin.

Parents! would you avert from your children a like terrible, sorrowful end, apply in time the corrective; take care of the beginning. — *Presbyterian*.

Beauty of the Spirit rather than of the Form.

What is beauty, after all? Ask the lover who kneels in homage to one who has no attraction for others. The cold looker-on wonders that he can call that unclassic combination of features, and that awkward form, beautiful. Yet so it is. He sees, like Desdemona, her "visage in her mind," or her affections. A light from within, shines through the external uncomeliness, softens, irradiates and glorifies it. That which to others seems common-place and unworthy of note, is to him, in the words of Spencer:

"A sweet, attractive kind of grace,
(A full assurance given by looks, and soul
Continual comforts in a face.
The luminous of gospel books."

"Handsome is that handsome does—hold up your heads, girls!" was the language of of Primrose in the play, when addressing her daughters. The worthy matron was right. Would that all my female readers who are sorrowing foolish, because they are not in all respects like Daphne's Eye, or that statue of Venus, "which enchants the world," could be

persuaded to listen to her. What is good-looking, as Horace Smith remarks, but looking good? Be good, be womanly, be gentle—generous in your sympathies, heedful of the well-being of all around you, and my word for it, you will not lack kind words of admiration. Loving and pleasant associations will gather about you. Never mind the ugly reflection which your glass may give. That mirror has no heart. But quite another picture is yours, on the retina of human sympathy. There, the beauty of holiness, of purity, of that inward grace "which passeth show," rests over it, softening and mellowing its features, just as the full, calm moonlight melts those of a rough landscape into harmonious loveliness. "Hold up your heads, girls!" I repeat Primrose, why should you not?—Every mother's daughter of you can be beautiful. You can envelope yourself in an atmosphere of moral and intellectual beauty, through which your otherwise plain faces will look forth like those of angels. Beautiful to ladyard, stiffening in the cold of a northern winter, seemed the deminutive, smoke-stained women of Lapland, who wrapped him in furs, and ministered to his necessities with kindness and gentle words of compassion. "Lovely to the home-sick heart of Park seemed the dark maid of Sago, as they sung their low and simple songs of welcome beside his bed, and sought to comfort the white stranger, who had "no mother to bring him milk, and no wife to grind his corn." O! talk as we may of beauty as a thing to be chiselled from marble, or wrought out on canvass,—speculate as we may upon its colors and outlines, what is it but an intellectual abstraction, after all? The heart feels a beauty of another kind—looking through the outward environment, it discovers a deeper, and more real loveliness.

J. G. Whittier.

Little Charlie.

A good while ago a boy named Charlie had a large dog which was very fond of the water, and in hot weather he used to swim across the river near which the boy lived. One day he thought struck him that it would be fine fun to make the dog carry him across the river, so he tied a string to the dog's collar, and ran down with him to the water's edge, where he took off all his clothes; and then, holding hard by the dog's neck and the bit of string, he went into the water, and the dog pulled him across. After playing about on the other side for some time, they returned in the way they went; but when Charlie looked for his clothes, he could find nothing but his shoes! The wind had blown all the rest into water. The dog saw what had happened, and making his little master let go of the string, by making believe to bite him, he dashed in the

river, and brought out first his coat, and then all the rest in succession. Charlie dressed, and went home in his wet clothes, and told his mother what fun he and the dog had had. His mother told him that he did very wrong in going across the river as he had done, and that he should thank God for making the dog take him over and back again safely; for if the dog had made him let go in the river he would most likely have sunk, and been drowned. Little Charlie said, "Shall I thank God now, mamma?" and he keeled down at his mother's knee and thanked God; then, getting up again, he threw his arm round his dog's neck, saying, "I thank you, too, dear doggie, for not letting go."—Little Charlie is now Admiral Sir Charles Napier.

to house a new treasure to body view
and it is just as good to hold it as we

Speak Gently.

Nothing is more true, than that "a soft answer turneth away wrath;" and gentleness of spirit and expression has a most happy influence. The following is quite illustrative of his position: A merchant in London had a dispute with a Quaker respecting the settlement of an account. The merchant was determined to bring the question into Court, a procedure which the Quaker earnestly deprecated, using every argument in his power to convince the merchant of his error; but the latter remained inflexible. Desirous of making the last effort, the Quaker called at the house of the merchant, one morning, and asked the servant if his master was at home. The merchant, hearing the inquiry and knowing the voice, called aloud from top of the stairs, "Tell that rascal I am not at home!" The Quaker, looking up towards him, calmly said, "Well, friend, God put thee in a better mind." The merchant was affected by the meekness of the reply, and after more deliberately investigating the matter, became convinced that he was wrong and the Quaker right. He requested to see him, and after acknowledging his error, he said "I have one question to ask you: How were you able with such patience, on various occasions, to bear abuse?" Friend," replied the Quaker, "I will tell thee: I was naturally as hot and as violent as thou art; I knew to indulge in this temper was sinful, and I also found that it was imprudent: I observed that men in a passion always speak very loud, and hence I thought, if I could control my voice, I could restrain my passion. I have, therefore, made it a rule never to suffer my voice to raise above a certain key; and, by a careful observance of this rule, I have, with the blessing of God, entirely mastered and subdued my naturally impetuous temper." The Quaker reasoned philosophically, and others may profit, as the merchant did, from his example.

Egg Dumplings.—Make a batter of a pint of milk, two well beaten eggs, a teaspoonful of salt, and flour enough to make a batter thick as for pound cake; have a clean saucepan of boiling water; let the water boil fast, drop in the batter by the teaspoonful; four or five minutes will boil them; take them up with a skimmer on a dish, put a bit of pepper and butter over them, and serve with boiled or cold meat; for dessert put butter with grated nutmeg, with syrup or sugar over.

Granite Farmer.

Egg dumplings are delicious in soup. We have never used them in the manner described in this receipt but once; they are very good for a dessert, with a sauce of sweet thick cream and loaf sugar. When we prepare them for soup we take half a pint of sour milk or butter milk, a teaspoonful of saleratus, one teaspoonful of salt and one or two eggs; beat the eggs to a foam, and then stir in flour to such a thickness that it will easily drop from the end of the spoon into the soup, forming nice light dumplings which are very healthy. When we drop them into hot water, and serve them with cream sauce, we use a pint of milk, which is enough for a family of eight or nine persons; half a pint is enough for soup for the same sized family.

From the Boston Cultivator.

Beet-root Vinegar.

Messrs. Editors:—That is a very simple and cheap mode of manufacturing the best vinegar from the juice of the beet-root, as described by your correspondent F. P. Fairbanks in your last number, but will he be candid and say, plainly, if this account be *theory*, or *practice*? in short, has he made the article himself, has he now a sample by him that he can furnish for examination; and if so, would he forward it to you for trial and report? this would be satisfactory to all, and I would go a long distance for such evidence, but without this testimony I must be excused for saying I should be rather slow of belief, but let him not misunderstand me. I have had much experience both in the culture of the sugar-beet and the extraction of its juice, and should not have expected that, at the strength which it marks when coming from the press, namely, from 6° to 8° Baume, it would be found strong enough to make vinegar "equal to the best made from cider or wine," and in quantity, "from five to six gallons from a

bushel of roots"—say sixty pounds. The general yield of juice is eighty five per centum by hydraulic pressure; of course, it would be less by cheese-press, but I am aware that the strength of this could be augmented by evaporation to almost any degree, yet this would be at the expense of the quantity. I have abundant reason to know that the sugar beet is one of the most profitable of the root crops, but in this country, it must not be sown early; as late as midsummer, or on a broken up pasture, or mowing-ground after the first crop has been taken for hay, will be found to afford a more regular crop, free from the danger of a second growth, in consequence of the heat or drought of an early sowing.

The best French brandy as well as the finest ale is made from the sugar-beet, and from the pulp, after expression of the juice, is manufactured Mocha coffee, brown paper, salt petre, and the best of fattening for sheep and cattle and food for horses; affording also a rich dressing for future crops of beets or any other vegetable production per se, when spread upon the ground; and vinegar, of course, can also be made, of excellent flavor too, but I must be forgiven if I again repeat, I am slow to believe that "the express juice from a bushel of beets will give from five to six gallons of vinegar, equal to the best made from cider or wine." *L. L. C.*

HOW WE GOT RID OF MOTHS.—A year since we had occasion to store a lot of furniture, with a considerable amount of woollen garments, carpets, bed clothing, &c. As the house necessarily used for storing was infested with moths and cockroaches, we had some fears on the account, but we procured a pound and a half of gum camphor, and packed all woollen materials in a single close room, with large lumps of the camphor in several places. The room was then closed up tightly, and left till a few days since. On opening it, we found it still filled with a strong odor of camphor. The lumps of gum, which were about the size of a hen's egg when put in, had now lost about half of their bulk, and not a single thread of any cloth in the room had been injured by moths or other insects.

One thing surprised us not a little, the ceiling of the room was literally covered with thousands of moths, though none were found elsewhere. The dollar expended in getting a large amount of camphor, probably saved us from many dollars' loss, since a bit of stair carpet, and an old fur muff, which were left in another room with some furniture, were entirely destroyed. —*Amer. Agriculturist.*

God hears the heart without words—but he never hears words without the heart.

CROPS IN INDIANA.—The reports of exchanges as to the coming crop, are favorable. One or two say that the soil in their region is suffering somewhat for rain, but as heavy showers have fallen over almost the whole State within a week, we presume fears of injury from drouth are dissipated by this time. As to the crops, yet to be put in the ground, we learn that the weather has been very favorable, and farmers have not been backward in availing themselves of its advantages. The Nashville Republican says that more corn was planted in April this year than for many years past, and that the ground was in such good condition that the crops you would 'grow right up.'

In the North, the Laporte Union says that peaches are a lost luxury. Nearly all the early varieties were killed by frosts. But Wheat never looked better, and more spring wheat has been sown than in any "two previous seasons." Corn will be planted more extensively than ever before, and the farmers are exceedingly busy.

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MARKETS.

ST. LOUIS MARKET.

Saturday, May 12, 1855.

HEMP—\$55@60 T on, Hackled \$150.
 FLOUR—V bbl. good country brands, \$9.50@10, choice brands, \$10.50; extra city, \$12.
 WHEAT—V bushel, good to prime, \$1.75@1.80, choice, \$2.00@2.25.
 CORN—V bushel 53@55 cents; sacks included.
 OATS—V bushel, 50@55 cents, sacks included.
 BARLEY—V bushel, \$1.00@1.35.
 MESS PORK—V bbl., \$16.75.
 PICKLED HAMS—V lb., 8@9 cents.
 LARD—V lb., No. 1, 8@9 cents.
 SUGAR—V lb., common, 6 1/2@6 3/4 cents.
 MOLASSES—V gallon, 30 cents.
 COFFEE—V lb., Rio, 10M 311 cents.
 FIG IRON—V ton, cold blast \$45@50.
 HAY—V 100 lbs. timothy, \$1.15@1.25.
 ERAY—\$1.31 cents V 100 lbs.
 SALT—V sack, G. A., \$1.50, Kanahwa, 40c V bushel.
 BUTTER—Prime table, 25@30c; inferior 15@25c.
 SEED—Flaxseed, \$2.00, timothy do. \$2.60; Clover do. \$7.50@7.75 per bushel.
 POTATOES—V bushel, 75c@81.10.
 DRIED APPLES—\$2.25 V bushel.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

BELLEVUE HOUSE, Saturday, May 5.

BEEF CATTLE—Mr. Herr, Fulton county Ill., sold 5 steers at five gross—Masonbury, Washington county, Ill., 9 do at 5 1/2 net—Bowers, Madison co., 100 do at \$63 per head—Thos. Kidney, St. Louis co., 35 do at 5c net—H. O. Conner, Washington co., Ill., 68 do at 5 1/2 net—Wyatt, Shelby county, Ill., 86 do 10 net.
MILCH COWS—P. Divine, St. Louis co., 17 head \$31.50 per head.

No cattle, sheep or hogs in market at 9 o'clock. Butchers offering for choice to ordinary cattle from \$11 to \$3 per cwt. Pork, none in the market, butchers offering from \$5 to \$6 1/2 per cwt. Sheep, none in the yard, offering from \$3 1/2 to \$5 1/2 per head, unflesced.

WEDGE HOUSE, May 5.

BEEF CATTLE—C. Bishop, Adams co., Ill., sold 3 at 10 1/2, 14 at 9 1/2, and 10 at 9 1/2 net—R. McClure, St. Louis co., sold 4 at 8 1/2, 2 at 8 1/2, and 1 at 8 1/2 net—Mr. Porter, Knox co., sold 14 at 9 net—Hensley & Mathews, St. Louis, sold 7 at 9, 7 at 8 1/2, and 2 at 8 1/2 net—Goldschmidt & Rothan, St. Louis, sold 7 at 10 net—Stonbraker, St. Charles co., sold 3 at 11, 4 at 10 1/2 net, 4 at 8 1/2 gross, and 4 at \$60 each—J. Hyde, Pike co., Ill., sold 6 at 9 1/2 net—Mr. Stump, St. Charles co., sold 10 at 9 net.

HOGS—Mr. Porter, Knox co., sold 38 at \$8 net—Stern & Co., St. Louis co., sold 40 at 6 net, average—Sanburn, St. Louis co., sold 36 at 6, and 48 at 6 net—B. C. McClure, Boone co., sold 26 at 6 net—W. Wilder, Sangamon, sold 30 at 5, and 30 at 4 1/2 net.

SHEEP—Mr. Moss, Knox co., sold 50 at \$3.50. No cattle in the yards. Cattle scarce and in demand. Butchers are paying from 10 to 11 net for good beefs. Shippers are offering 5 1/2 to 10 net for good shipping cattle.

HOGS—Market dull and declining. Butchers are paying from 6 1/2 to six net. Shippers pay from 4 1/2 to 5 net. **SHEEP**—Are selling from \$3.50 to \$4.50 each. **MILCH COWS**—Are selling from \$25 to \$40 each.

Latest advices from the New Orleans Cattle Market are, for good Western from \$11 to \$11 1/2 net.

It is said that if clover is moistened with water and then dried by rolling it in plaster, that the effect is beneficial.

Haines' Illinois Mower.

This Mower took the premium at the Tazewell County Agricultural Fair held at Tremont, the 29th and 30th of September 1864.

The "Pekin Mirror," noticing the trial says:

"Last Monday being the time appointed for the purpose, a trial of mowing machines was had at Tremont, under the direction of the officers of the County Agricultural Society. The place selected was on the land of Mr. Tompkins, about a mile south of the village, in prairie grass both light and heavy.

Four machines were entered and put on trial, one of Manny's patent by Mr. Ramsey, one of Ketchum's improved patent by Mr. Eaton, and one of Mr. Haines' Illinois Mowers by himself. The trial occupied about two hours, when the committee expressed themselves fully satisfied, and will make their report at time of awarding premiums at the County Fair.

The width cut by the different machines is all the same, being about four feet ten inches, and so far as could be discovered, they all did the work about equally well—but there was a marked difference in the effect on the team; while Mr. Tompkins' team with Ketchum's machine nearly worried down in a short time, some of the others appeared to do the work with comparative ease, which difference we think is mainly owing to the different constructions of the machines with a view to their lightness of draught.

We noticed in Manny's patent that the side draught was very heavy, also something of the same in Ketchum's, but the same fault was nearly or quite obviated in Haines'. We noticed also that in both Manny's and Ketchum's a pretty rapid speed was required in order to make them work, especially in heavy grass, and that when Ketchum's improved patent was placed behind Haines', and a slow speed required, that Ketchum's choked two or three times, while Haines' seemed to work equally as well as when under a more rapid motion.

What we understood the Messrs. Haines claim for their Illinois Mower over any other is, first, the finger beam is so attached to the frame as to accommodate itself to any unevenness in the ground; second, the frame is supported on two large wheels instead of one; and so coupled together as to make driving wheels of both thus making the weight of the machine act as a power to drive the cutting blades, and at the same time equalize and lighten the draught on the horses; third, the motion of the knives is so regulated, as to admit a slow speed and yet have power sufficient for

the heaviest grass; fourth, the knives being riveted on a bar in such a way as to be as easily ground as a butcher's knife; fifth, the use of a balance wheel on the crank shaft of sufficient weight and diameter to equalize the strain on the gearing; sixth, the machine is thrown in and out of gear with facility and ease, while under motion.

It is also believed to be equal to any other Mower in use for strength and durability.

With regard to the trial we heard but one opinion expressed, and that was that Haines' machine was clearly entitled to the preference, so far as their qualities could be tested that day.

With the result of Haines' machine, which has heretofore been mostly an experiment we are much pleased, not only because it is a production of our own city mechanics, but for the benefit our farmers will reap from having it manufactured among them.

Trial Held in Garden Plain.

We the undersigned, being present at a trial of HAINES' ILLINOIS MOWERS, held the premises of Mr. O. M. Howard, in Garden Plain, on the 24th Oct. 1864, would cheerfully say that we were perfectly satisfied from its operation upon that occasion, that it is the best mowing machine yet offered to the public.

The grass cut at that had been quite killed by the frost and was dry and withered. The trial was made upon smooth prairie, with a light growth; upon rough swampy ground, in which the grass was in places lodged fast; and upon ground on which was a heavy growth of last year's grass, (it not having been burned off the previous year) and in all these instances the machine did not fail to cut perfectly clean; except where the grass was lodged fast, without in the least clogging or becoming impeded in its operation.

Judging from the tests there given, in connection with one of Danforth's machines, we believe it to be lighter draft, and to have much less side draft, than either Danforth's or Manny's machines.

E. R. HOOD, J. A. SWEET,
E. W. BOYNTON, GEORGE MITCHELL,
O. M. HOWARD, ABRAHAM MITCHELL.

HAINES' ILLINOIS HARVESTER

How important for the farmer to know that with this machine he can cut and store his wheat, oats, rye, and barley in one half of the time and at a cost of one dollar less on the acre than with the most approved reapers, and with equal certainty of saving; as those who have used them the last five years can testify. Think of these facts, FARMERS! and send in your orders soon.

The machines for next harvest will be warranted perfect; and the prices at our shop are: For a machine cutting 8 feet wide, \$210; 9 feet, 220, and 10 feet \$230. Terms: one half cash, the balance on seven months, with ten per cent. interest, unless other terms are agreed upon.

Prices of Mower, \$120; Mower and Reaper combined, \$130.

PEKIN, ILL.

A. & J. HAINES.